

PUBLIC AND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Subject of File.

P. & J.

110-E-1

19

Previous
File.....Next
File.....Evacuation of
British Subjects from Egypt.MEMORANDA.

FOR: L/PJ/8/396

This File contains the following papers:—

YEAR.

1941. P. & J. 1591. 1592. 1823. 1972. 2279. 2356. 2544. 2534.

1941. P. & J. 2451. 2554. 2572. 3. 2683. 3048. 3085. 3093.

1941. P. & J. 4367. 4416. 4484. 4489. 4509. 4507. 4670. 4687.

1941. P. & J. 5564. 6052. 6264. 6808. 7072. 7409.

1941. P. & J. 422. 791. 2592. 2882.

19 . P. & J.

19 . P. & J.

19 . P. & J.

Papers are only to be removed from or placed within this Jacket by the Registry.

SECRET.

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

India Office (2)

22 APR 1942

Copied to WO.
a.m.
Treas
admt
C.O.

K3685/10/250

Refs F.O. letter
No. K2661/10/250
of 19th March
DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

[CYPHER]

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

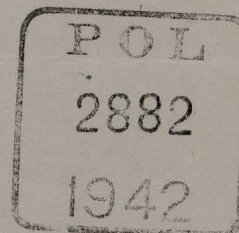
Sir M. Lampson.
No. 887.
23rd March, 1942.

D. 9.30 p.m. 23rd March, 1942.
R. 1.40 a.m. 24th March, 1942.

999999999 2592

Your telegram No. 872.

Following from Preston.

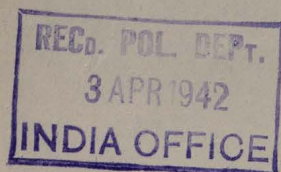


Army admits in principle obligation to pay, but no Army quarters or suitable accommodation are now available in Egypt within the scale of Army allowances which barely cover 30% of minimum cost of subsistence.

2. As revision of Army scale of allowances is presumably impossible the only Department to which these dependents can apply for the necessary additional support is the Repatriation Office seeing that [?so many] remain destitute refugees even taking into consideration service allowances which are totally inadequate. In the circumstances I should be grateful for instructions whether I may continue to pay them or if not to what Department they should apply for assistance.

3. Repatriation Office will receive retrospective contributions from Military authorities in respect of accrued marriage and family allowances not issued whilst dependents were maintained by Repatriation Office. Total amounts are being ascertained and full particulars will be forwarded by bag.

INDIV.



SECRET.

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

India Office

(3)

PAff.

K2661/10/250

19 MAR 1942

[Cypher].

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

*Copied to C.O.
a.m.
w.o.
Admty
Treas*

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir M. Lampson
No. 693
28th February, 1942.

D. 6.28 p.m. 28th February, 1942.
R. 2.25 a.m. 1st March, 1942.

*Ref. F.O. letter No K12148/150
of 16th Dec.*

eeeeeee

My telegram No. 2606 and your telegram No. 84 Saving
December 12th.

See also Headquarters Middle East telegram A.I. 10,222
October 3rd to War Office and their reply 56,926 December 9th.

Following from Preston.

In the light of past experience most practical arrangement
for families of enlisted refugees appears to be as follows:

(a) Military personnel to be absolved except as provided
below from re-payment of all further expenses in connexion with
evacuation and maintenance of themselves and their dependants
including cost of passage to final destination.

(b) Above to apply to all ranks irrespective of date of
joining and to all enlisted refugees whether from the Balkans
or elsewhere.

(c) Repatriation Office Cairo to be responsible for
maintenance and arrangements for families of military personnel
and payment of passages to final destination. Responsibility
of Repatriation Office to cease from date of disembarkation in
the country of final destination. Families of military
personnel to continue to be treated as evacuees under Mackereth
scheme in country of final destination.

(d) Military marriage, family, etc. allowances to be paid
by military authorities direct to Repatriation Office Cairo
until date of disembarkation at final destination and thereafter
to reception organisation in country concerned, these allowances
to be treated as a settlement of all claims for maintenance and
other costs. In the case of commissioned ranks necessary
proportion thereof to be paid to meet such charges in full. Signed
undertakings to repay will no longer be obtained.

2. I should be grateful for your approval of above
procedure or failing this your views thereon. It has been
worked out with military authorities who approve.

3. If agreed with War Office will you approach the Air
Minsitry and Admiralty also, with a view to appropriate
instructions being sent to services concerned in the Middle East.

4. The problem is not a large one. Following are
numbers of dependants involved: already evacuated: officers
dependants:

Naval	nil
Military	16
R.A.F.	nil

Other.....

Other ranks dependants:

Naval	nil
Military	14
R.A.F.	nil.

Awaiting evacuation:

Officers dependants:

Naval	1
Military	33
R.A.F.	17.

Other ranks dependants: -

Naval	nil
Military	5
R.A.F.	4.

Officers are individually making retrospective payments to Repatriation Office but in the case of other ranks the military authorities are unable to make retrospective payments and propose to contribute scale allowances direct to Repatriation Office as from March 1st 1942.

(INDIV).

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

4

This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be
kept under Lock and Key.]

K.2661/10/250.

[CYPHER].

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No.872.
March 13th 1942.

D. 1.0 a.m. March 15th 1942.

Your telegram No.693 [of 28th February; maintenance of dependants of British refugees who have joined the forces].

Following for Preston.

I cannot approve proposals, which involve your maintaining dependants of officers like distressed British subjects and acting as paymaster for dependants of other ranks.

2. I consider that, as soon as a British refugee enlists, his dependants should become the responsibility of the military authorities concerned.

(INDIV).

5 FEB 1942

K588/10/250

Pr

India Office

LIST OF BRITISH INDIANS EVACUATED.

No.	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Date of Arrival in Egypt.	Destination.	Date of Departure.	Remarks.
1.	ASHIK Mohamed.	M	41	28/5/41	India	18/6/41	
2.	GUPTA Nalini Kanta.	M	45	3/5/41	India	7/8/41	
3.	" Alice Erika.	F	29	3/5/41	India	7/8/41	wife - German of
4.	" Renu.	M	7	3/5/41	India	7/8/41	son
5.	TEJUNAL Hotchant.	M	36	31/5/41	India	7/8/41	
6.	VASWANI Sandras Pakardar.	M	42	7/4/41	India	7/8/41	
7.	" Naniktam Koduma.	M	24	7/4/41	India	7/8/41	

POL.
791
1942

Handwritten note:
(Case & copy
sent to
co before)

6 FEB 1942
INDIA OFFICE

KEEP

COPY IMMEDIATELY BELOW FILE JACKET

COLLECTION 10.E.1.

SCHEME FOR THE EVACUATION OF BRITISH
SUBJECTS FROM EGYPT.

The need for preparing a scheme for the evacuation of British Nationals in Egypt was considered in August 1940. The number involved were estimated at 7,000 Anglo-Saxons and 19,000 Colonials chiefly Maltese and Cypriots. It was decided to encourage those who were able to leave at their own expense to do so, but that any general scheme for evacuation should be kept in the background in view of the bad political affect that would result from the announcement of any such scheme.

The Union of South Africa have agreed to take the Anglo-Saxons, the latest figure for which is given as 10,500; the revised estimate for Colonials is 15,500, including 9,000 Maltese (the question of finding a haven for the Maltese is being dealt with on a separate file part "D"). A number of friendly aliens will probably be included in the scheme.

There is no intention at present (May 1941) of putting the scheme into operation, but individuals are being quietly encouraged to leave.

AKH

**SECRET CIPHER
TELEGRAM**

REF TO

30 JAN 1942

P.P.

WITH

253166.

From :- C. in C., Middle East. Des. 2145.17/1/42.
Recd. 1015.18/1/42.

To :- The War Office.

A.1/50624 cipher.17/1.

*30
Pd 12*

Ref.our 42413 of 26/12. Following are totals of
R.A.F.families in categories A.and B.in Cyprus Egypt and
Palestine. Read (A) offrs.wives and children (B) O.R.s
wives and children. Cyprus (A) nil (B) 6 and 3.
Palestine (A) nil (B) 493 and 640.

Trans Pol

C.4.(Telegrams).

To M.O.1 (for action).

Copies to:- M.O.1, 2, 5. Colonial Office (Mr.Poynton).
D.D. of O(L) Foreign Office (Mr.Thompson).
A.G.1, 3. Dominions Office (Mr.Head).
D.Q.M.G. Admiralty (War Registry).
D.Q. Air Ministry (A.M.C.S.).
D.Mov. India Office (War Staf). 2
Q(O)
Q(M)1.
F.1, 2, 4, 5.
Q.M.G.F.
D.F.(b) (a)
C.4.
Q.2.

POL.
422
1942

REC'D
20 JAN 1942
INDIA OFFICE

A
SP

Draft letter

Pol. 7409/41

(4)

Major O.B.T. Darley

no 1(a)

The War Office, SW1

- 6 JAN 1942

H

Dear Major Darley,

(16)

Will you please refer to my letter of the 6th November, NO Pol 6052/41, in which I said that we would not approach the G.I. regarding the evacuation of service families from the Middle East until the position had clarified.

I have now seen a copy of the telegram from the Middle East NO A1/42413 dated 26th December, which provides some information as to numbers, but I am still not clear what is required so far as India is concerned. I am therefore proposing to defer any action on in the matter at this Office until I hear from you.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) S. G. PENNELLS

Sign
SP 31/1/42



CIVIL SERVICE ICE SKATING ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the Civil Service Sports Council and to the National Skating Association.

Chairman :

Mr. W. BANKES AMERY, C.B.E.
Dominions Office, S.W.1.

Hon. Secretary :

Mr. L. STURMER JACOBSON,
Police Architect's Dept., New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

Hon. Treasurer :

Mr. F. P. BARNARD,
H.M. Inspector of Taxes (City 20), Empire House, E.C.1.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am informed by the Civil Service Sports Council that you are interested in Ice Skating and have pleasure in enclosing herewith an Enrolment Form and some particulars of the Civil Service Ice Skating Association which may be of interest to you.

Yours faithfully,

L. STURMER JACOBSON,

Hon. Secretary.

From:- C.-in-C. Middle East.

**SECRET CIPHER
TELEGRAM**

(S.D.11) 251558.

To:- War Office.

Desp. 2240 26/12/41.
Recd. 2000 27/12/41.

A1/42413 cipher 26/12.

NO DEC 1941

FILE COPY:

POL.

7409

1941

Ref. your 56199 (M.O.1.) of 6/12 and our 71370 of 9/6.

One (.) Category C was cleared up in our 13422 of 11/10 (.)

Two (.) Following age totals of Army Service families in categories A and B in Cyprus Egypt and Palestine (.) Read (A) offrs. wives and children (B) O.Rs. wives and children (.) Cyprus (A) 6 and 11 (B) 2 and 2 Egypt (A) 7 and 16 (B) 320 and 599 Palestine (A) 56 and 31 (B) 1494 and 2 (28) 56 (.) Still some 20 names outstanding (.)

Three (.) R.A.F. will send their figures separately (.) R.N. only evacuate voluntarily at persons own expense so have not consulted (.)

Four (.) Category D (.) Impossible get details but consider numbers probably so few as not affect general scheme (.) Suggest could deal with applications on merits and add to scheme when it functions (.)

Five (.) Discuss above with Melo (.)

Six (.) Your Four (.) Your 56926 (S.D.11) of 9/12 noted (.) Still discussing with Embassy.

C.4. Telegrams.

to :- M.O.1. (for action).

Copies to :-

M.O.1.2.5.
D.D. of O. (L).
A.G.1.3.
D.Q.M.G.
D.Q.
D.Mov.
Q.(O).
Q.(M).1.
F.1.2.4.9.
Q.M.G.F. (2 copies).
D.F.(B).(D).
C.4.
Col. Office. (Mr. Poynton).
F.O. (Mr. Thompson).
Mr. Head. Dominions Office.
Admiralty. (War Registry).
Air Ministry. A.M.C.S.
India Office. War Staff.
Q.2.

7 Transfer
Pol. 7/12/41
REC'D. POL. DEPT.
30 DEC 1941
INDIA OFFICE

8
Ref. F.O. Letter No. K9130/5/250 of 28th Aug

India Office (10)

Copied to CO
Incas

OUTWARD TELEGRAM.

K.13148/5/250.

[En clair]

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

With the Compliments

Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

No. 84 SAVING.

12th December 1941.

sssss

16 DEC 1941

Your telegram No. 2616 of August 20th : evacuation of the families of refugees from the Balkans who have joined the army.

The War Office state that as soon as reception areas have been selected, they propose to consider a general scheme for the three services, covering Maltese, Cypriot and other families not acceptable to South Africa. They hope that in the meantime it will not be found necessary to evacuate the families concerned.

2. I regret that it has not been possible to reply earlier to your telegram.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.
17 DEC 1941
INDIA OFFICE



SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

POL
6808
1941

11

From: The War Office.

Desp. 1600.7.12.41.

To: C.-in-C., Middle East.

5.199

.....Cipher (M.O.1)....⁶/12.

Pol 14/11

Your A1/24677 dated 10/11.

1. Position is as follows. India Office and Colonial Office have expressed willingness to undertake possible schemes for reception of wives and families of British Service personnel belonging to Categories A, B, C and D, (Your A1/71670 of 9/6/41 ^{N^T} refers) on receipt of the necessary data as to numbers in each category by rank and sex.
2. Until schemes have been worked out it is not (repeat not) possible to undertake examination of the financial commitment.
3. We are unable therefore to proceed further until we have more details from you.
4. Foreign Office have referred to us H.M. Ambassador's telegram No. Cairo 2606 dated 20/8/41, and we have replied that schemes will be considered as soon as reception areas have been decided upon. The class of evacuee referred to therein does not (repeat not) come under any of the categories specifically mentioned in your A1/71670 of 9/6/41. Are you considering these as part of the original scheme? If so, please include details of numbers and sexes in your reply to paragraph 3 above.

C.4.(Tels.).

Copies to:-

M.O.1,2,5.
D.D. of O.(L).
A.G.1,3.
D.Q.M.G.
D.Q.
D.Movements.
Q.(O), Q.2.
Q.(M).1.

F.1,2,4,9.
Q.M.G.F. (2 copies)
D.F. (b) (d)
C.4.
Colonial Office (Mr.Poynton)
Foreign Office (Mr.Thompson)
Dominions Office (Mr.Head)
Admiralty (War Registry)
Air Ministry (A.M.C.S.).
2 India Office (War Staff).

REC'D. POL. DEPT.
-9 DEC 1941
INDIA OFFICE

GA
? Transfer Pol.
27/12. 1/4

**SECRET CIPHER
TELEGRAM**

POI

6808

1941

12

From: The War Office.

Desp.1600.7.12.41.

To: C.-in-C., Middle East.

5/99

.....Cipher (M.O.1)....⁶/12.

Your A1/24677 dated 10/11.

1. Position is as follows. India Office and Colonial Office have expressed willingness to undertake possible schemes for reception of wives and families of British Service personnel belonging to Categories A, B, C and D, (Your A1/71670 of 9/6/41 refers) on receipt of the necessary data as to numbers in each category by rank and sex.

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C.4.(Tels.).

Copies to:-

M.O.1,2,5.
D.D. of O.(L).
A.G.1,3.
D.Q.M.G.
D.Q.
D.Movements.
Q.(O), Q.2.
Q.(M).1.

F.1,2,4,9.
Q.M.G.F. (2 copies)
D.F. (b) (d)
C.4.
Colonial Office (Mr.Poynton)
Foreign Office (Mr.Thompson)
Dominions Office (Mr.Head)
Admiralty (War Registry)
Air Ministry (A.M.C.S.).
India Office (War Staff).

REC'D. POL. DEPT.

-9 DEC 1941

INDIA OFFICE

13

W.S. SECTION

SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

POL
6264
1941

13 NOV 1941

Page 2

Trans Pol.

09803.

From:- C.-in-C. Middle East.

Desp. 2115 10/11/41.

To:- War Office.

Recd. 1015 11/11/41.

Awant a precise
request from
see P.6052/41 about
the Poles
4489

W.O.A.1/24677 cipher 10/11.

Political

Your 86433 (M.O.1.) 26/8.

Figures are. Women and children Poles officers
256 other ranks 290 Czechoslovaks 26 and 43 Yugoslavs 14 and
one.

C.4. Telegrams.

To M.O.1(a) (for action/...

Copies to:- D.D.M.O.(O)

M.I.L.

M.O.1(a).

C.I.G.F.

F.I., 4.

(Lt.Col.Goode, (India Office).

Mr. Poynton (Colonial Office).

RECEIVED POL DEPT
14 NOV 1941
INDIA OFFICE

COPY.

Mr. Pennells,
India Office.

(14)

SECRET

13 November, 1941.

Dear Calder

Reference your letter No. 45349/41 of the 11th November, 1941 about the question of the evacuation from the Middle East of the families of Polish soldiers.

We have now heard from Commander-in-Chief, Middle East that the numbers involved are:-

Wives and children of officers	256
" " " " other ranks	290

We now also have the numbers of other nationalities as under:-

Czechoslovaks	26 officers	43 other ranks
Yugoslavs	14 " "	1 " "

Do you think that these last could be accommodated at the same time as the Poles? They all have this in common, that the Union will not receive any of them.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Pennells of the India Office.

Yours sincerely
W.A. Dailly

J.A. Calder Esq.,
Colonial Office,
S.W.1.

(15)

ASD

Register
Papers
H. S.



Ind 1.

Room 268.

9th November
1941.

Dear Pennells.

Thank you for your no: 6052/41.
of the 6th November.

I agree that we should
await the result of the Colonial
Office investigation of the possibilities
of settling the Poles in Northern
Rhodesia, before approaching
the Government of India.

Yours sincerely.

W. J. Darley.

S. G. Pennells Esq.
India Office.

PA 18
Pol.6052/41.

India Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

16

6th November, 1941.

Dear Major Darley,

With reference to your letter of the 1st November No.0176/652.(M.O.1), ~~as~~ I explained in my letter of the 29th August No.Pol.4416/41, we have not yet approached the Government of India regarding the evacuation of certain service families from the Middle East to India. You will remember that the matter was left in abeyance until we received more definite information as to numbers.

I notice ⁱⁿ ~~from~~ the letter from the Polish Embassy, a copy of which was enclosed, that the Polish authorities would prefer to send the families of their serving nationals to Northern Rhodesia. Would it not be preferable, therefore, to await a reply to the letter you have sent to Calder of the Colonial Office before we put the question to the Government of India. If a blank is drawn/

253
Major D.B.J. Darley,
M.O.1(a).,
The War Office,
S.W.1.

drawn with Northern Rhodesia we should
then be in a stronger position to ask
the Government of India whether they would
take them in.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) S. G. PENNELLS

FILE COPY.

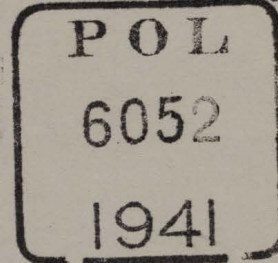
(17)

*Register
R. number & attach
papers*



THE WAR OFFICE.
S.W.1.

1 November, 1941.



0176/652. (M.O.1).

Dear Pennells

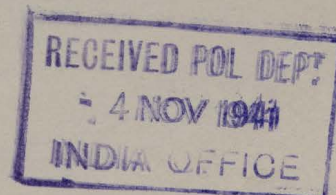
With reference to the meeting convened at the War Office by Brigadier Mallaby on 1st July, 1941, to discuss the evacuation of certain categories of Service Families from the Middle East.

The attached proposal has now been received from the Polish Embassy. I should be grateful if you would confirm that India's offer still stands, and that the standard of camp accommodation would meet the expectation of the Polish Embassy.

I attach a copy of my letter to the Colonial Office.

*Yours Sincerely
S.G. Pennells*

S.G. Pennells, Esq.,
India Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.



THE WAR OFFICE,
S.W.1.

November, 1941.

0176/652. (M.O.1.)

With reference to the meeting convened at the War Office by Brigadier Mallaby on 1st July, 1941, to discuss the evacuation of certain categories of Service Families from the Middle East.

The attached proposal has now been received from the Polish Embassy. I should be grateful for your views on the possibility of the families in question being received in Northern Rhodesia.

I attach a copy of my letter to the India Office.

J.A.Calder, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing St.,
S.W.1.

C O P Y.

THE POLISH EMBASSY.
Military Attache.

911/41.

53, New Cavendish Street,
W.1.

Phone: Welbeck 7901.

19th September, 1941.

Dear Major Bradfield,

Referring to your letter No.0176/652/M.I.L. dated 27th July, I would like to inform you that our authorities would agree* to evacuate the families of Polish soldiers from the Middle East to the camps in India, providing that there is no other place where they could be sent.

My authorities understand that these camps are arranged according to all necessary sanitary requirements and that satisfactory food supply would be available on the spot equally to the military camps.

I would be very grateful if you could inform me whether it would be possible to send the families in question to the Northern Rhodesia where already certain number of Polish refugees arrived from the Near East. I understand that amongs them there is wife of one of our men and she is already writing to her husband in this country.

* in case of necessity

Yours sincerely

(Sgd) J. SEKOWSKI
Assistant Military Attache.

Major E.C. Bradfield, M.C.,
The War Office.

**SECRET CIPHER
TELEGRAM**

FILE COPY.

01545 POL

5564

1941

From:- Cin C. Middle East.

Desp:- 1630 12/10/41
Recd:- 0945 13/10/41

To:- The War Office

A.1/13422 cipher 11/10.

Your 91970 (M.O.1) 25/9.

Delay due to great difficulty obtaining numbers.

First. Following shows by nationalities numbers adults and children in category C in Army. Greek 14 and 5 Turkish 3 and 2 Yugoslav 3 and 4 Armenian 2 and 1 Syrian 5 and 10 Ottoman 2 and none Italian 2 and 2 British 4 and 1 French 1, and 1 Maltese 10 and 18 Gibraltar 1 and none Egyptian 1 and 2 Cypriot 1 and 2 Hungarian 1 and none Latvian 1 and none German 4 and 4. Further 12 families about whom no details in Palestine. Army total 67 adults 52 children.

Second. R.A.F. 16 Adults and 5 children in Category C details not available.

Third. RN. Naval Maltese 13 and 11 Dockyard 71 (of 41) and 39 Navy considers these in Cat. C but evacuation to be voluntary.

Fourth. All in first and second would be evacuated compulsorily.

Fifth. None of these acceptable South Africa.

Sixth. Categories A B and D. Figures still not available.

Ref your 75369 (M.O.1) of 1/7. Impossible give numbers willing to evacuate as willingness depends on military situation and location of destination. I propose sending block figures of Cypriots Maltese Palestinian Offrs. and O.R's who are married.

C.4.(Tels).

RECEIVED POL DEPT
15 OCT 1941
INDIA OFFICE

/Distribution only

This still leaves the matter incomplete & I have agreed with Major Darby that we should take no action until he sends over a definite request for assistance

To:- M.O.1 (for action)

Copies to:-

D.O.M.G.
D.O.
D.Movements
D.D.M.O. (O)
D.D. of O(L)
A G.I.S.
M.O.1.2.5.
O(O) O.2.
O(M)1
F.1.2.4.9.
G.H.G.F. (2 copies)
D.F.(b) (d)
C.4.
Colonial Office (Mr.Poynton)
Foreign Office (Mr.Thompson)
Domns Office (Mr.Head)
Admiralty (War Reg)
Air Ministry (A.H.C.S.)
India Office (Mr.W.C.Wallis)

Note by M.O.1

This telegram refers to the subject
of Middle East telegram A 1/71370 dated
9/6/41 annexed to the minutes of a
meeting held by M.O.1 at War Office on
1/7/41 re Evacuation of service families
from the Middle East.

Colonial Office Reference No. 13604/1/41

(21)

With the compliments of the U.S. of S.

File

Date 4 SEP 1941

Colonial Office

FILE COPY

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W. 1.,

Reference _____

13604/1/41.

4th September, 1941.

SECRET.

4687

1941

With reference to your letter of the 26th of August, N.O/Org./40 about the evacuation of British and Allied Service families from Middle East Areas, I am afraid there is very little further information that we can let you have about the possibility of accepting these persons in the Colonial Empire pending the further information as to the numbers and nationalities involved. When we have these we will certainly consult the Dependencies which we promised at the meeting to consult, namely Kenya, Tanganyika, Ceylon and the West Indies. I ought perhaps however to let you know that since the meeting was held there have been a number of further demands on the East African Dependencies, namely
for

MAJOR D.B.J. DARLEY.

RECEIVED POL DEPT

5 SEP 1941

INDIA OFFICE

for Maltese refugees from Egypt,
Allied refugees from Spain and
Portugal and for certain members
the Yugoslav Air Force, so that
I am afraid the prospects there are
not quite so good as they were at the
beginning of July.

I am sending a copy of this
letter to Wallis, India Office.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- J.A. CALDER.

SECRET CIPHER

W. TELEGRAM

RE: TO

4 SEP 1941

WITH

FILE COPY.

POL

4670

1941

From:- The War Office.

To:- G.H.Q., Middle East.

Desp. 2140 3/9/41

...87879.....Cipher (M.O.1.) 3/9.

Reference our 86433 (M.O.1) 26/8.

Sir M.Lampson's telegram No.2606 dated 20/8

to Foreign Office has been passed to us. It is understood from your A1/76546 cipher 26/6 that you have a scheme to include this category of evacuees.

We cannot proceed with details of evacuation until we receive the numbers asked for in our 75369 cipher 1/7.

C.4. (Telegrams).

DISTRIBUTION:-

D.D.M.O.(O).

M.O.1.

M.I.L.

Q.M.G.F.

F.14.

Lt.-Col. Goode. (India Office).

Mr.Poynton. (Colonial Office.).

RECEIVED POL DEPT

4 SEP 1941

INDIA OFFICE

h. O'D to see
for Political

Me
H

4

**SECRET CIPHER
TELEGRAM**

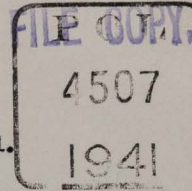
SECRET

(23)

From:- The War Office.

To: G.H.Q., Middle East.

Desp. 0930.30.3.41.



87100
.....Cipher (M.O.1) 29/8.

- Pol Dept
Your A.I. C. 94508 cipher 21/8.

Reply now received from India Office says quote
we have not so far approached government of India as to
possibility of accommodation being available in India for any
service families as we expected further information would be
forthcoming regarding the number of families involved.
Government of India are experiencing great difficulty in making
arrangements for reception of refugees of various kinds, and it
would be useless to invite their co-operation until we can give
some indication as to what is required. We note that Cairo
telegram of 20th August No. 2606 to the Foreign Office, speaks,
apparently in this connexion, of a minimum of 100 families.
Unquote.

Can you now let me urgently know the numbers of
families involved please. My 74561 27/6, 75369 1/7, 86433 26/8,
all refer

(Telegrams).

DISTRIBUTION:- D.D.M.O. (O).
M.O.1.
M.I.L.
Q.M.G.F.
F.14.
Lt.-Col. Goode (India Office.)
Mr. Poynton (Colonial Office.)

Transf to Political

30/8

RECEIVED POL DEPT
- 1 SEP 1941
INDIA OFFICE

Please number & file
H 308

24

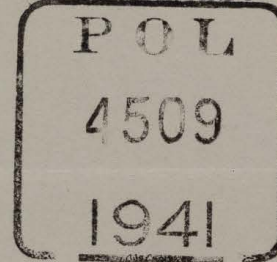


SECRET.

FILE COPY.

Ref. Pol. 4416/41.

29th August 1941



Dear Pennells

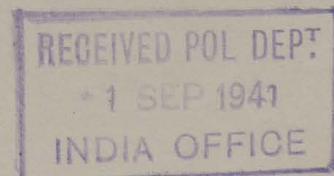
Thank you for your letter of 29th August. We telegraphed G.H.Q. Middle East on the 26th August reminding them that we still awaited details of the numbers involved in the scheme, and we hope that we will now get the information you require. We are sending a further reminder to-day.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Calder of the Colonial Office.

Yours Sincerely

AB/Darling

S.G. Pennells, Esq.,
India Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.



**SECRET CIPHER
TELEGRAM**

FILE COPY.

(25)

From:- The War Office.

Desp: 0830 27/8/41.

To :- C.inC. Middle East.

.....86433.....Cipher (M.O.1) .26/8.

POL
4489
1941

4416
Pol. Dept.
Your A.I.C. 94508 cipher 21/8.

India Office and Colonial Office have been asked to supply us with more information, but would remind you that they asked for the numbers involved some time ago. May we now know how the matter stands please. Our 80282 cipher 25/7 and 75369 cipher 1/7 refer.

C.4. (Telegrams).

Mr O'D.

To see

? Pol. Dept.

DISTRIBUTION:-

D.D.M.O.(O).
M.O.1.
M.I.L.
Q.M.G.F.
F.1 4.
4 Lt.-Col. Goode
(India Office).
Mr. Poynton.
(Colonial Office).

RECEIVED POL DEPT
30 AUG 1941
INDIA OFF

SECRET.

India Office (26)
FILE COPY.

K 9130/5/250

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

27th August, 1941.

With the Compliments
of the

Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

Sir,

28 AUG 1941

4348

Sped to Treas

4484^{G.O.}

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Eden to refer to telegram 21471670, addressed to the War Office on the 10th June by the Commander-in-Chief Middle East, on the subject of the evacuation of the wives of former residents in the Balkans who have enlisted in the British Army, and to transmit herewith a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo.

2. Subject to whatever views the Army Council may wish to express, Mr. Eden proposes to approve the arrangements described in paragraph 3 of Sir Miles Lampson's telegram.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) A. B. HUTCHEON.

RECEIVED POL. DEPT.

29 AUG 1941

INDIA OFFICE

The Under-Secretary of State,
War Office.

Encl. already recd.
on P. 4348/41

[Cypher]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir M. Lampson.

D: 10. 10 p.m. 20th August 1941.

No. 2606

20th August 1941.

R: 10. 05 p.m. 20th August 1941.

pppppp

IMPORTANT.

General Headquarters Middle East reports difficulty in disposal of wives and families of refugees from the Balkans who have enlisted in British army. About 100 families are at present involved and more recruits are expected.

2. Since army evacuation scheme provides only for reception in South Africa of families of pure European descent Middle East requested that Maltese and Cypriot families concerned should be evacuated under Foreign Office auspices. They also suggested that superior accommodation should be provided in reception country for families of enlisted men, as compared with refugees, as incentive to recruiting. Men who enlist will normally receive family allowances.

3. Middle East are being informed (a) in the absence of any applicable army evacuation scheme and subject to your approval repatriation office is prepared to arrange transport of family [sic: families ?] Maltese evacuees at War Office expense as soon as the ultimate destination has been decided upon. (b) if family allowances are issued expenses of evacuees being no longer destitute will cease to be cover [?grp.omit. -ed] by Repatriation Office, and latter will be obliged to cease relief. (c) Repatriation Office cannot make itself responsible for these privileges once they have arrived in the country of reception, such families being treated as those of other members of His Majestys' forces.

4. I understand Middle East have already raised the question with the War Office. May I have your observations ?

Draft letter

Pol. 44116/441 (28)

29 AUG 1944

29 AUG 1944

Major A.B.T. Darby,
MO.1(a)

The War Office
Sir

Dear Major Darby, 1 + 2

I am replying to your letter of the 26th August, NO MO.1/Arg. 460, about the evacuation of British and Allied service families from the Middle East Areas as Wallis has now left the Department.

We have not so far approached the Government of India as to the possibility of accommodation being available in India for ^{any of} these families as we expected that further information would be forthcoming regarding the number of families involved before we should be called upon to arrive at a decision. The G/I are experiencing great difficulty in making arrangements for the reception of refugees of various kinds and I am afraid it would be useless to invite their co-operation in the present scheme until we can give some indication as to what is required.

If you will let me have more precise details we will send a telegraphic enquiry to the G/I. I note that Cairo tel. of 20th Aug, no. 2606, to the Foreign Office, speaks, apparently in this connection, of a minimum of 100 families. I am sending a copy of this letter to Calder of the Colonial Office.

(Sgd.) S. G. PENNELLS

Copy for Calder (Co.)

PHW

of a minimum of 100 families.

COPY SENT TO Mr. Calder (Co.)
29/8 PHW.

VICEROY OF INDIA Nov. 19th

Noon Th.

Nov. 24th

Dec. 5th

COMORIN Nov. 25th

4 a.m.

Dec. 3rd

Dec. 15th

STRATHAIRD Dec. 9th

Dec. 17th

Dec. 29th

Steamer

Leave Liverpool

Leave Marseilles

Arrive
Rangoon

SAIWEEN

Sept. 16th

Sept. 24th

Oct. 18th

KEMMENDINE

Sept. 30th

Oct. 8th

Nov. 1st

AMARAPOORA

Oct. 14th

Oct. 22nd

Nov. 15th

SAGAING

Oct. 28th

Nov. 15th

Nov. 29th

PROME

Nov. 11th

Nov. 19th

Dec. 13th

BURMA

Nov. 25th

Dec. 3rd

Dec. 27th

FILE COPY

M.O.1/Org.40.

The War Office,

26 August, 1941.

4416

Dear Wallis

You will remember that on 1st July, 1941, we held a meeting at the War Office, which you were good enough to attend, to agree on a policy for evacuating British and Allied service families from Middle East areas.

We then decided that we would require to know the numbers involved before a detailed scheme could be drawn up, and as a result a telegram was sent to Middle East asking specific questions. Until now, however, no reply was received.

The attached telegram has now arrived. I should be grateful if you would let me know whether, despite the lack of the information desired, you can now let me have any further information as to the possibilities of settling Polish, Czechoslovak and Yugoslav service families in India.

I have sent a similar letter to Mr. J.A. Calder of the Colonial Office.

Yours sincerely

J.A. Calder

Major. R.A.

W.C. Wallis Esq.,
India Office.

REC'D. POL.

26 AUG 1941

INDIA OFF

SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM.

C O P Y.

From:- C.-in-C. Middle East.

Desp. 0420 22/8/41.

To :- The War Office.

Recd. 2155 22/8/41.

A.I.C.94508 cipher 21/8.

Your 77445 (M.O.I.) 11/7.

Request further information as to possibilities of receiving Polish Czechoslovak and Yugoslav service families in India or Colonial Empire.

C.4. Telegrams.

**SECRET CIPHER
TELEGRAM**

37424. **FILE COPY.**

31

From:- C. in C., Middle East

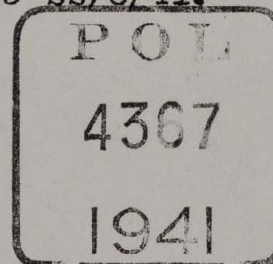
Desp. 0420 22/8/41.

Recd. 2155 22/8/41.

To:- The War Office.

A.I.C. 4508 cipher 21/8.

Your 77445 (M.O.I.) 11/7.



Request further information as to possibilities of receiving Polish Czechoslovak and Yugoslav service families in India or Colonial Empire.

C.4.(Telegrams).

To:- M.O.I. (for action).

Copies to:- D.D.M.O.(O).

M.O.I.

M.I.L.

Q.M.G.F.

F.I. 4.

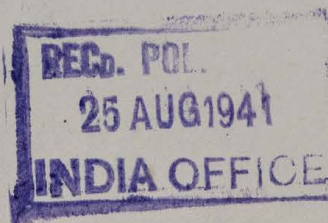
India Office, (Lt. Col. Goode).

Colonial Office, (Mr. Poynton).

hm o D

? Pol. Dept.

Yes



7
SECRET.

With the Complements
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

21 AUG 1941

India Office

Copied to m.w.t.
Colonial
W.O.
A.M.
Treas
D.O.

(32)

AKS K 9130/5/250

Pol.

[Cypher]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

FILE COPY.

Sir M. Lampson.

No. 2606

20th August 1941.

D: 10. 10 p.m. 20th August 1941.

R: 10. 05 p.m. 20th August 1941.

PPPPPP

IMPORTANT.

POL

4348

General Headquarters Middle East reports difficulty in disposal of wives and families of refugees from the Balkans who have enlisted in British army. About 100 families are at present involved and more recruits are expected.

2. Since army evacuation scheme provides only for reception in South Africa of families of pure European descent Middle East requested that Maltese and Cypriot families concerned should be evacuated under Foreign Office auspices. They also suggested that superior accommodation should be provided in reception country for families of enlisted men, as compared with refugees, as incentive to recruiting. Men who enlist will normally receive family allowances.

3. Middle East are being informed (a) in the absence of any applicable army evacuation scheme and subject to your approval repatriation office is prepared to arrange transport of family [sic: families ?] Maltese evacuees at War Office expense as soon as the ultimate destination has been decided upon. (b) if family allowances are issued expenses of evacuees being no longer destitute will cease to be cover [?grp.omit. -ed] by Repatriation Office, and latter will be obliged to cease relief. (c) Repatriation Office cannot make itself responsible for these privileges once they have arrived in the country of reception, such families being treated as those of other members of His Majestys' forces.

4. I understand Middle East have already raised the question with the War Office. May I have your observations ?

REC. PM.
22 AUG 1941
INDIA OFFICE

PA 64

110. E

(23)

SECRET

Minutes of a meeting held at the
War Office on Tuesday, 1st July 1941.

6

EVACUATION OF SERVICE FAMILIES FROM THE
MIDDLE EAST.

PRESENT:-

Brigadier A.W.S. Mallaby, O.B.E. (in the chair).

Major J.F. Haigh.
(representing D.Q.).

S.G. Davies, Esq.
(representing Air Ministry)

Major C.J.W. Simpson.
(representing D.M.O. & P.)

Group-Captain A. Fletcher, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.
(representing Air Ministry).

H. Birkhead, Esq.
(representing D.F.(d)).

S.F. Lewis, Esq.
(representing Admiralty).

W.C. Wallis, Esq.
(representing India Office).

W.G. Head, Esq.
(representing Dominions Office).

J.A. Calder, Esq.
(representing Colonial Office).

Secretary - Major D.B.J. Darley.

ITEM I.

Brigadier Mallaby said that Item I on the agenda did not appear to require discussion as he understood that it was based on a misconception of the Air Ministry's attitude to evacuation to Kenya. In any case the Governor of Kenya had now raised the ban on families of British service personnel. (A.M.)

Group-Captain Fletcher said that the Air Ministry had at no time decided to evacuate or send service families to Kenya, nor had they allowed the families of airmen to travel to that country. The Air Ministry had accepted the ruling of the meeting held at the War Office in March 1941, which placed a ban on Kenya. Any enquiries that may have been made of the Kenya Government were instituted by the A.O.C-in-C., Middle East and not by the Air Ministry.

The meeting agreed that Item I on the agenda did not require discussion and passed to discussion on Item II.

ITEM II

The meeting had before them a telegram from C.-in-C., Middle East and an Air Council letter. (Annexes "A" and "B").

Brigadier Mallaby said that a telegram had been despatched to C.-in-C., Middle East asking for the numbers to be evacuated in each category, and that a reply was awaited. Without this information it was not possible for the meeting to enter into any detail. He suggested that a decision was required as to whether the meeting accepted the categorization proposed by the C.-in-C., that the meeting had authority to approve the categorization, and that detailed examination by the departments concerned should be deferred pending receipt of the numbers in each category.

/ Mr. Calder

Mr. Calder said that the Colonial Office agreed in principle that there should be no difference in priority between category (A) families and the civilian inhabitants of Cyprus and Palestine. As regards category (B) the Colonial Office was anxious to avoid discrimination between different categories of British subjects in Egypt, but would agree that category (B) had the right to be included in any general scheme for evacuating British subjects from Egypt and might be given higher priority for consideration by the Service Departments when accommodation and shipping allowed.

Mr. Wallis pointed out that, while there was a large number of Cypriots and Maltese in Egypt, it might, in fact, be the case that few of them wished to be evacuated. He saw no reason why, apart from priority, these service families should be treated distinctly from ordinary civilians, and that any arrangements for the evacuation and reception of the latter might equally be applied to the former.

Group-Captain Fletcher said that the object of evacuating service families from the Middle East was chiefly operational. He was in agreement with the categorisation suggested by C.-in-C., Middle East.

The meeting then proceeded to a general discussion on the possibilities of various Empire countries as evacuation areas, in the course of which it was noted that:

- (a) South Africa is willing to receive British families of pure European descent, and Greeks, but do not wish to receive Poles.
- (b) India is prepared to receive families of any category, but owing to the limited accommodation available, would have to house them in camps.
- (c) The Colonial Office is prepared to investigate the possibilities of receiving the families in Kenya, Tanganyika, Ceylon and the West Indies, when the numbers involved have been communicated.

The Meeting:

- (a) Accepted the categorisation suggested by C.-in-C., Middle East, and invited the War Office to inform him by telegram.
- (b) Instructed the Secretary to send a further telegram to C.-in-C., Middle East, to ask:
 - (i) The number of families willing to be evacuated in categories (A), (B) and (D).
 - (ii) The number of families to be evacuated in category (C).
 - (iii) The number of families of Allied troops willing to be evacuated.
 - (iv) Families of all three services to be included in the totals by categories.
- (c) Invited departments concerned to make a detailed investigation of suitable areas as soon as they knew the numbers and types they were to cater for.



[Signature]
Major, G.S.

SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM No. A1/71670 of 9/6/41
FROM MIDDLE EAST.

"We are in considerable difficulties in dealing with following categories of service families regarding evacuation.

(a). Cypriots resident in Cyprus and Palestinians resident in Palestine.

(b). Maltese Cypriots etc., resident in Egypt.

(c). Europeans and non-Europeans (other than (a) and (b)), showing signs of colour and unacceptable to South Africa whose husbands are not locally enlisted or commissioned.

(d). As for (c) but husbands are locally commissioned etc. All above categories have claim to consideration for evacuation before civilian population. At present we have no suitable destination for any of them. Recommend as follows. Those in (a) must at present be considered indistinguishable from civilians. Milpal agrees with this. Matter is one in which Palestine Government is much concerned. Those in (b) to be considered similarly but to have higher priority for consideration by services when accommodation and shipping allow. Those in (c) to be sent to some Empire country which will accept. All those in (d) have technically same rights as those in (a) but consider it advisable, particularly in Egypt, that they should be treated in same manner as (b). In addition, families few in number of allied troops e.g. Poles and Greeks have strong claim to consideration in view probable action to be taken against them if captured. Recommend they be treated as those in (c)."

ANNEX B.
SECRET.

LETTER FROM THE AIR COUNCIL,
ref S.4533/S.7.A. d./18.6.41.

" I am commanded by the Air Council to refer to a recent communication from the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East to the War Office and repeated by the Air Officer Commanding, Middle East, to this department on the subject of the evacuation of certain categories of service families from the Middle East, namely Cypriots, Palestinians, etc. In view of the urgency and importance of the questions at issue and of the various interests concerned, the Air Council suggest that it would be advantageous if you were to convene a meeting of representatives of the War Office, Air Ministry, Colonial Office, Foreign Office, India Office and Dominions Office to discuss the points at issue.

Although the India Office have recently intimated that they find it difficult to arrange for the reception of any large number of evacuees owing to the dearth of available centres and the congestion already existing in those centres, the air council are inclined to think that the Government of India and, additionally, the Governments of Kenya and Tanganyika, might be asked to take evacuees of all the categories mentioned. It is thought, moreover, that the possibility of finding suitable reception places in Eritrea could also be profitably explored."

Thurman *TH* 3/7

(37)

Mr. Gibson.

PA *le*
24.11.1

You may like to glance through these notes on a meeting I attended at the War Office which was held to consider arrangements for the evacuation of Service families from Egypt. British European Service families were compulsorily evacuated about twelve months ago and the meeting was concerned merely with the categories set down in the C.-in-C., Middle East's, telegram of 9th June. I gathered from the War Office representatives that the C.-in-C. felt that having disposed of the British Europeans it was incumbent upon him to dispose of the others, but I suggested that it seemed unnecessary to evacuate these other people unless they wanted to go and that in any case they should be brought within the scope of the arrangements made for the ordinary British and Allied population. I was told that the move was "operational" and that the evacuation of civilians was considered desirable as they might prove an embarrassment to the military authorities in the event of hostilities breaking out in Egypt. I said that in that case it seemed a little odd to provide for this handful of people when there were over 20,000 other British civilians in the country and in their case, although a scheme is under consideration, it has been decided that general evacuation should not be started for the present. Apparently, however, the Service authorities prefer to deal with their families quite independently of any arrangement made for the ordinary civilians.

As to reception areas, I mentioned that the South African Government had already agreed to take up to 2,000 Greeks from Egypt, that Poles from Cyprus were being taken in East Africa and that a proposal had just been made to the East African Governments that they might find room for any Maltese and Cypriots who might wish to leave Egypt. A ready solution of the problem of accommodation for the few people now to be dealt with would be to send them to join their compatriots. I said, however, that if necessary the Government of India would no doubt be ready to help. It was agreed that nothing definite could be decided on until some information was available as to the ~~principles~~ ^{numbers} involved. I very much doubt whether we shall have to trouble India.

W. Challen

3.11.41

§
The D.O.
representation
was answered
of this!

Pol.3093/41.

India Office,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

38

July, 1941.

SECRET.

- 3 JUL 1941

Dear Darley,

Thank you for your note of yesterday enclosing the draft minutes of the meeting held on the 1st July.

933 In the report of my comments under Item II "Greeks" should read "Maltese". Another observation which I made under this head and which I should like recorded is that I saw no reason why, apart from priority, these Service families should be treated distinctly from ordinary civilians and that any arrangements made for the evacuation and reception of the latter might equally be applied to the former.

I have no other comments.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. W. C. WALLIS

Major D.B.J. Darley,
M.O.1(a),
The War Office,
S.W.1.

POL
3093
1941

2nd July 1941.

Dear Wallis

I enclose herewith draft minutes of the meeting which you attended at the War Office on 1st July 1941. I should be grateful if I could have your comments by 9.0 a.m. Saturday, 5th July, as after that time the minutes will be presumed firm and issued accordingly.

Yours sincerely
L. H. Dauler

M.O. 1(a).
The War Office,
Ext. 212.

Secretary.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.
3-JUL-1941
INDIA OFFICE

DRAFT

(40)
SECRET

Minutes of a Meeting held at the
War Office on Tuesday, 1st July 1941.

EVACUATION OF SERVICE FAMILIES FROM THE
MIDDLE EAST.

PRESENT:-

Brigadier A.W.S.Mallaby, O.B.E. (in the chair).

Major J.F.Haigh.
(representing D.Q.)

S.G.Davies, Esq.
(representing Air Ministry)

Major C.J.W.Simpson.
(representing D.M.O. & P.)

Group-Captain A. Fletcher, C.M.G., C.B.E.
(representing Air Ministry). M.C.

H.Birkhead, Esq.
(representing D.F.(d).)

S.F.Lewis, Esq.
(representing Admiralty).

W.C.Wallis, Esq.
(representing India Office).

W.G.Head, Esq.
(representing Dominions Office)

J.A.Calder, Esq.
(representing Colonial Office)

Secretary -Major D.B.J.Darley.

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The meeting had before them a telegram from C.-in-C., Middle East + and an Air Council letter.

Brigadier Mallaby said that a telegram had been despatched to C.-in-C.-in-C., Middle East asking for the numbers to be evacuated in each category, and that a reply was awaited. Without this information it was not possible for the meeting to enter into detail. He suggested that a decision was required as to whether the meeting accepted the categorization proposed by the C.-in-C. that the meeting had authority to approve the categorization, and that detailed examination by the departments concerned should be deferred pending receipt of the numbers in each category.

Mr. Calder said that the Colonial Office agreed in principle that there should be no difference in priority between category (A) families and the civilian inhabitants of Cyprus and Palestine. In Egypt the responsibility for civilians, of course, rests with the Egyptian Government. The Colonial Office was anxious to avoid discrimination but would agree that, as British subjects, Category (B) had the right to be included in any general scheme for evacuating service families.

Mr. Wallis pointed out that, while there was a large number of Cypriots and Greeks in Egypt, it might, in fact, be the case that few of them wished to be evacuated.

Group-Captain Fletcher said that the object of evacuating service families from the Middle East was chiefly operational. He was in agreement with the categorization suggested by C.-in-C., Middle East.

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(b) India is prepared to receive families of any category,

but owing to the limited accommodation available, would have to house them in camps.

Office

(c) The Colonial/ is prepared to investigate the possibilities of receiving the families in Kenya, Tanganyika, Ceylon and the West Indies, when the numbers involved have been communicated.

The meeting:

- (a) Accepted the categorization suggested by C.-in-C., Middle East, and invited the War Office to inform him by telegram.
- (b) Instructed the Secretary to send a further telegram to C.-in-C., Middle East, to ask:
 - (i) The number of families willing to be evacuated in categories (A), (B) and (D).
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 - (iii) The number of families of Allied troops willing to be evacuated.
 - (iv) Families of all three services to be included in the totals by categories.
- (c) Invited departments concerned to make a detailed investigation of suitable areas as soon as they knew the numbers and types they were to cater for.

+ No. AI/74670 cipher 9/6 - attached.

Ø No. S.4533/S7.A, dated 18/6/41 - attached.

ANNEX A.
S E C R E T

SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM No. A1/71670 of 9/6/41
FROM MIDDLE EAST.

"We are in considerable difficulties in dealing with following categories of service families regarding evacuation.

- (A). Cypriots resident in Cyprus and Palestinians resident in Palestine.
- (B). Maltese Cypriots etc., resident in Egypt.
- (C). Europeans and non-Europeans (other than A and B), showing signs of colour and unacceptable to South Africa whose husbands are not locally enlisted or commissioned.
- (D). As for (C) but husbands are locally commissioned etc. All above categories have claim to consideration for evacuation before civilian population. At present we have no suitable destination for any of them. Recommend as follows. Those in A must at present be considered indistinguishable from civilians. Milpal agrees with this. Matter is one in which Palestine Government is much concerned. Those in B to be considered similarly but to have higher priority for consideration by services when accommodation and shipping allow. Those in C to be sent to some Empire country which will accept. All those in D have technically same rights as those in A but consider it advisable particularly in Egypt that they should be treated in same manner as B. In addition families few in number of allied troops e.g. Poles and Greeks have strong claim to consideration in view probable action to be taken against them if captured. Recommend they be treated as those in C."

ANNEX B.SECRET.

Letter from the Air Council, ref. S.4533/S.7.A. d./18.6.41.

" I am commanded by the Air Council to refer to a recent communication from the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East to the War Office and repeated by the Air Officer Commanding, Middle East, to this department on the subject of the evacuation of certain categories of service families from the Middle East, namely Cypriots, Palestinians, etc. In view of the urgency and importance of the questions at issue and of the various interests concerned, the Air Council suggest that it would be advantageous if you were to convene a meeting of representatives of the War Office, Air Ministry, Colonial Office, Foreign Office, India Office and Dominions Office to discuss the points at issue.

Although the India Office have recently intimated that they find it difficult to arrange for the reception of any large number of evacuees owing to the dearth of available centres and the congestion already existing in those centres, the Air Council are inclined to think that the Government of India and, additionally, the Governments of Kenya and Tanganyika, might be asked to take evacuees of all the categories mentioned. It is thought, moreover, that the possibility of finding suitable reception places in Eritrea could also be profitably explored!"



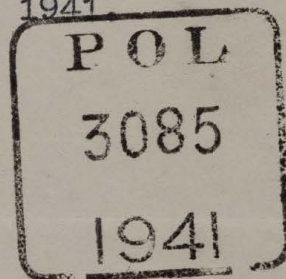
SECRET

INDEXED (45)



0143/3257/M.O.1.

27^s June, 1941



Dear Goode,

I propose calling a meeting of representatives from the Admiralty, Air Ministry, Dominions Office, Colonial Office and India Office, on Tuesday, 1st July, at 3.15 p.m., at the War Office.

The matter to be discussed will be the evacuation of service families from the Middle East, and I should be glad if your representative would attend.

A copy of the Agenda follows.

Yours sincerely

A. S. Mackay

Lt.-Colonel R. L. Goode,
India Office, (War Staff),
S.W.1.

POL
3085
1941

46

SECRET.

COPY NO. 8

MEETING to be held in Room 219, The
War Office on Tuesday, 1st July at
3.15 p.m.

EVACUATION OF SERVICE FAMILIES.

1. To consider certain matters arising from the evacuation of Service Families to Kenya and South Africa.
2. To consider proposals for the specific categories of evacuees named in Telegram A1/71670 Cipher 9/6 from the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.

(47)

POL
3085
1941

SECRET.

COPY No. 8

THE EVACUATION OF SERVICE
FAMILIES FROM MIDDLE EAST.

Note by the Secretary.

1. The Meeting is called to consider two items, vide the Agenda attached.
2. ITEM 1. The intention of the Air Ministry to continue evacuating British families of the R.A.F. to Kenya causes certain difficulties, and considerable dissatisfaction among British families of the Army in view of the War Office ban on Kenya as an evacuation area. The War Office have arranged with South Africa to receive evacuees of this nature from the Middle East.

The Meeting is asked to find an agreed basis on which the two service evacuation schemes can be correlated in respect of evacuation areas.

3. ITEM 2.

I attach at ANNEX A - a copy of Telegram No. A1/71670 Cipher 9/6 from Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.

at ANNEX B - a copy of Air Council letter No. S.4533/S.7.A.

The Meeting is asked, in the light of the suggestions contained in the above documents, to agree on a reply to the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.

M.O.1 (Extension 212),
The War Office,
28th June, 1941.

Major, G.S.
Major, G.S.
Secretary.

ANNEX A.
S E C R E T

SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM No. A1/71670 of 9/6/41
FROM MIDDLE EAST.

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(B). Maltese Cypriots etc., resident in Egypt.

(C). Europeans and non-Europeans (other than A and B), showing signs of colour and unacceptable to South Africa whose husbands are not locally enlisted or commissioned.

(D). As for (C) but husbands are locally commissioned etc. All above categories have claim to consideration for evacuation before civilian population. At present we have no suitable destination for any of them. Recommend as follows. Those in A must at present be considered indistinguishable from civilians. Milpal agrees with this. Matter is one in which Palestine Government is much concerned. Those in B to be considered similarly but to have higher priority for consideration by services when accommodation and shipping allow. Those in C to be sent to some Empire country which will accept. All those in D have technically same rights as those in A but consider it advisable particularly in Egypt that they should be treated in same manner as B. In addition families few in number of allied troops e.g. Poles and Greeks have strong claim to consideration in view probable action to be taken against them if captured. Recommend they be treated as those in C."

ANNEX B.

SECRET.

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The Under Secretary of State,
India Office

Secret

30 June 1941

50

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

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kept under Lock and Key.]

PAGE 1/1

X 4295/261/503

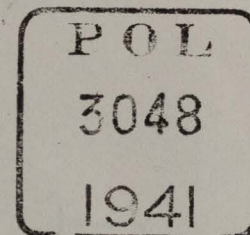
With the Compliments
of the

[Cypher]

Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.



No. 2240
26th June, 1941

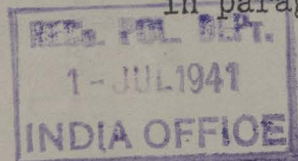
D. 3.45 a.m. 27th June, 1941

a.a.a.a.a.a.a

Your telegram No. 1768 [of June 9th: evacuation].

There is no objection to the departure of the families of members of your diplomatic and consular staff but (see last sentence of my telegram No. 2036) I cannot advise them to go and the payment of separation allowances therefore does not arise.

2. My telegram No. 1583 [of May 17th]. If it became operative it would apply to the employees mentioned in paragraph 3 of your telegram under reference.



[Cypher].

DEPARTMENTAL NO: 2.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir M. Lampson.

No: 1768.

9th June, 1941.

D: 1.05 p.m. 9th June, 1941.

R: 4.30 p.m. 9th June, 1941.

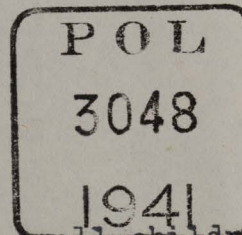
IMMEDIATE.

Your telegram No: 1583.

A few wives of members of the staff with small children may shortly wish to leave Cairo. I have received an application from Mr. Flynn.

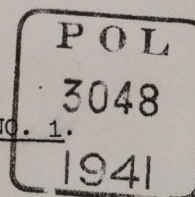
2. I presume I may give "advice" to leave discreetly as provided in your telegram to any others in this category who enquire? This would be in accordance with the policy towards civilians - see my telegrams Nos: 1722 and 1723. I hope you will approve and I should be glad of an early reply.

3. Your telegram applies to locally-engaged clerical staff and applies equally to M.E.W. Ministry of Information and Department of Overseas Trade employees.



Copy.
(K 4411/523/250)
(CODE R)

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.



FROM FOREIGN OFFICE
TO HIS MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVES AT

Tokyo No. 582
Shanghai No. 512
Bangkok No. 208
Moscow No. 468
Cairo No. 1583
Angora No. 1115

16th May, 1941. D. 5.30 a.m. 17th May, 1941.

1. Sanction has been obtained for the payment with effect from March 1st, 1941 of separation allowances for the wives and families of members of the diplomatic and consular staffs in cases where the separation is made on advice given with my approval.

2. The rate of the allowances will be two-thirds of the actual expenditure incurred on board and lodging by wives and families and will be subject to the following annual maxima:-

Diplomatic and Consular Officers	£200
Clerical Officers	£150
Other grades	£130

For wives without children payments for the above grades will be limited to £150, £110 and £100 a year respectively in cases where vouchers of expenditure cannot be produced as, for instance, where wives are staying with relatives. Separation allowances will become payable when wives and families arrive at their destinations, when subsistence allowances cease.

(To Tokyo only)

3. The advice referred to in paragraph 1 may be regarded as having been given before March 1st in regard to Japan and on March 8th for Hungary.

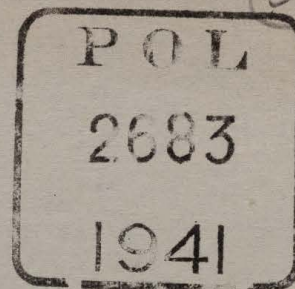
(To Shanghai only)

3. The advice referred to in paragraph 1 will be regarded at present as having been given only to Mrs. Kitson, Mrs. Turrall and Mrs. Groves and separation allowances will be paid from the date on which they would have sailed had the advice not been given until the next opportunity of departure.

(To Bangkok only)

3. The advice referred to in paragraph 1 may be regarded as having been given before March 1st for Thailand (Siam) and Indo-China.

PA *Per 17. vi*
Dominions Office Reference No. *M. 683/2*
with the Compliments of *the U.S. of S.*
Date 16 JUN 1941
Reference *D.O. Ltr. of 7/6/1941.*



CYPHER TELEGRAM

LONG DISTRIBUTION

From the United Kingdom High Commissioner in the

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

TO DOMINIONS OFFICE

D. 13th June, 1941. 5.22 p.m.
R. 14th " " 1.5. a.m.

No. 660. *2451*

My telegram No. 634 of 5th June, paragraph 2.

At meeting yesterday with representatives of the Union Departments concerned, it was agreed that, subject to the approval of the Minister, Union would take over responsibility for issuing all monies to British civilian evacuees from Egypt. Arrangement would be that when expenditure had been examined and checked through normal Union financial machinery, request would be made to this office for the transfer of the necessary sums. Effect is that there is no longer necessity for sending out officer from the United Kingdom to make these payments to evacuees. Additional work involved in this office can probably be dealt with by existing staff.

RECd. POL. DEPT.
17 JUN 1941
INDIA OFFICE

14

PA 6347/5/250

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

The Under-Secretary
of State,
India Office

(54)

K. 6347/5/250.

[CYPHER].

11 JUN 1941

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

POL

2573

SECRET.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir M. Lampson.
No. 1802.
June 10th, 1941.

D. 9.46 a.m. June 10th, 1941.
R. 10.00 a.m. June 11th, 1941.

YYYYYYY

IMMEDIATE.

My telegrams No. 1722 and No. 1723.
In view of the serious raids on Alexandria I should be
glad of immediate answer with a view to our removing
women and children from Alexandria as soon as possible.

Copy:- Treas.
M.W.T.
C.O.D.
W.O.
A.M.
C.O.
D.O.

MAIL BRANCH
12 JUN 1941

REC. POL. DEPT.
12 JUN 1941
INDIA OFFICE

The Under-Secretary of State,
OUTWARD TELEGRAM: *India Office*

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be

kept under Lock and Key.

SECRET

With the Compliments
of the

(K 6155/5/250) Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

[En clair]

Copy:- Treas.
M.W.T.
C.O. 2572
A.M. 941
C.O. D.O.

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

11 JUN 1941

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No. 1956.
9th June, 1941.

D. 2.00 p.m. 9th June, 1941.

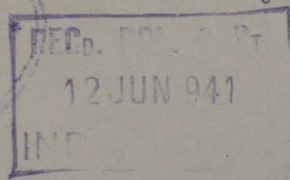
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2554/41

MOST IMMEDIATE.

My telegram No. 1937, [of 8th June: evacuation].

Please hold your hand for the moment.



The Under-Secretary of State
India Office (56)

(K. 6155/5/250) OUTGOING TELEGRAM

[Cypher]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

POL

2554

SECRET.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No. 1937

D. 11.35 a.m. June 8th 1941

June 7th 1941

Copy:- *Heas.*
W.W.T.
Adm.
W.O.
A.M.
C.O.
D.O.

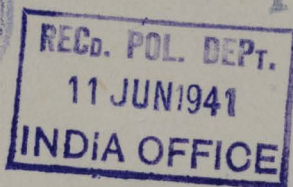
Heas.
 Your telegram No. 1722 [of June 6th: evacuation].

I entirely approve.

2. You realise of course that there is no sanction for sending any refugees without means to South Africa except those emanating from Egypt.

With the Compliments
 of the
 Under Secretary of State
 for Foreign Affairs

10 JUN 1941



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27 Feb '94

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28 Feb '08

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[Cypher]

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir M.Lampson.
No. 1723.
6th June, 1941.

D. 8.50 p.m. 6th June, 1941.
R. 12.35 a.m. 7th June, 1941.

uuuuuuu

IMMEDIATE.

Following is text of proposal instructions to
Consular Officers for use in statement to British
subjects.

[Begins] In view of certain misapprehensions which
appear to exist on the subject, the Embassy wish to
make it clear that there is no question of evacuation
of British colonies from Egypt. Policy of His Majesty's
Government is to defend Egypt with all its forces, and
British subjects in Egypt, especially those doing work
of national importance, to stay where they are, as in
England.

Consul should bring to notice of all married Anglo
[?Egyptian and] British subjects that good opportunities
exist for families to leave Egypt, which may not be the
case later, and their departure would be approved by
the Embassy. Those women and children who are not
engaged on work of national importance and wish to leave
Egypt should register their names at British Consulate-
General, where information may be obtained about
opportunities that now exist to leave Egypt. [Ends.]

[Cypher]

DEPARTMENTAL 2.FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir M. Lampson,
 No. 1722.
 June 6th, 1941.

D. 8.55.p.m. June 6th, 1941.
 R. 12.15.a.m. June 7th, 1941.

-----oOo-----

IMMEDIATE.My telegram No. 1516. 279Your telegram No. 1763. 2356

The whole subject of the evacuation of British community has been discussed very fully with Service Chiefs.

2. Community at present take it for granted that it will be evacuated in case of necessity. But at the last moment no large scale evacuation will be physically possible. We are, therefore, in a false position. There is only a trickle of British subjects leaving at present, and British subjects will not in fact go unless advised officially to do so. Some further statement therefore, is called for.

3. The three Commanders-in-Chief are against evacuation as such. General Wavell fears the effect on Egyptian morale, and he needs the shipping space available to get rid of 80,000 Italian prisoners here who might be a source of danger in some eventualities and moreover need to be guarded by troops who might otherwise be more usefully employed. In all the circumstances General Wavell prefers a policy of "stay put" for all who are not on our secret list of compromised persons.

4. I am inclined to agree that the circumstances may necessitate the adoption of this policy, but I consider British subjects should, in that case, be warned accordingly. My immediately following telegram contains the text of suggested oral statement to be issued on this subject by the Consular Officers to British subjects individually. We would prevent its publication by censorship control.

5. Meanwhile, I consider that so far as shipping space permits, every effort should be made to remove from what may almost at once be an active war zone, those members of the British colony whose presence in Egypt is not essential to the war effort. This would include women (not doing war work) and children and probably some people of no fixed occupation and others whose presence is undesirable.

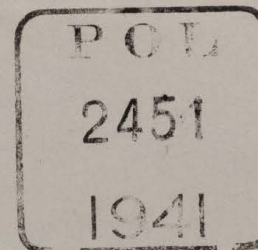
6. It is unlikely that any appreciable number of these people will move without a lead from an authoritative source to do so, but I hope the above mentioned statement will have the necessary effect.

7. Proposed statement would in no way be a general warning.....

warning to the British colony to evacuate, but merely a firm attempt to remove those members of the colony whose presence here, far from being useful to the war effort, is really an obstruction thereto. Repatriation office from now onwards will be sending periodically groups of evacuees from Greece, Turkey, and elsewhere to India and South Africa. This would provide an exceptional opportunity, by intermingling them with these evacuees, of effecting departure, without ostentation, or causing undue attention, of categories of British colony in Egypt mentioned above.

8. Commanders-in-Chief concur in this telegram.
9. May I have a very early reply?

Dominions Office Reference No. M. 0832
with the Compliments of the H. S. G. S.
Date 7 JUN 1941
Reference D.O. Ltr. of 4/6/41



CYPHER TELEGRAM

PA
11. VI LONG DISTRIBUTION

From the United Kingdom High Commissioner in the
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO DOMINIONS OFFICE

D. 5th June, 1941, 8.11 p.m.
R. 6th " " 12.10 a.m.

No. 634.

Your telegram No. 605 of 3rd June. — 2534/41

1. It was the intention that all evacuees should contribute according to their means and that only those without means should receive assistance at the full rates quoted in paragraphs 2 and 3 of my telegram No. 495 of 2nd May.

2. It will not, however, be for the Union Government to arrange this. The first sentence of paragraph 4 of my telegram No. 495 referred to the regular issue of funds in the Union to evacuees, for which the Union Government wish a United Kingdom officer to be made responsible. It is assumed that the last paragraph of your telegram under reference refers to special advances to evacuees prior to their departure from Egypt.

3. Overseas service families organisation at Durban has found that 1,000 persons represent the largest number which can readily be dealt with in one flight. Since the Union authorities will be creating a new organisation and since, if over 1000 comes at one time, their settlement could not probably be concentrated in one place and would therefore require a divided organisation, I feel sure that it would be unwise to overtax the organisation at the start by sending more than 1000. The Union officials who have been sent to Egypt to deal with the Greek refugees will be able to advise the Ambassador personally on this.

REC'D
-9 JUN 1941
INDIA OFFICE

Dominions Office Reference No. M. 683/2
to the Compliments of the U.S. of A.
Date 4 JUN 1941
Reference _____



M 683/2.

CYPHER TELEGRAM

LONG DISTRIBUTION

FROM DOMINIONS OFFICE

To the United Kingdom High Commissioner in

THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Sent 6 p.m., 3rd June, 1941.

No. 605.

Your telegram of 2 May No. 495.
Arrangements proposed for evacuees are generally acceptable to United Kingdom Government, but Union Government should be invited to arrange that evacuees who, though unable to support themselves, have some means should contribute so far as possible towards cost of their maintenance. It is probable, however, that if evacuation from Egypt takes place, many more than 1000 British subjects would leave if shipping facilities exist.

Consular Officer would be made available to meet need mentioned in paragraph 4 of your telegram.



Reference *M. 683/2.*

1.0. (61)

With the compliments of the
Under Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

Reference to previous correspondence.

Letter ~~to the Dominions Office~~

of the *7 June 1941.*

from *D.O.*

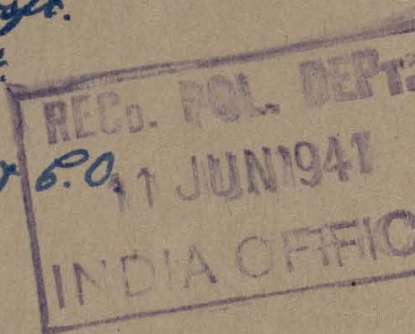
Copy also sent to:— *F.O.*
Tray.
W. H. Traft.
Adm.

W.O.
A. M. & B.O.



Downing Street, S.W.1.

10 JUN, 1941



CYPIER TELEGRAM

LONG DISTRIBUTION

POL

2544

941

From the Acting United Kingdom High Commissioner in the
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO DOMINIONS OFFICE

D. 2nd May, 1941. 16.24 hrs.
R. 2nd " " 16.56 hrs.

IMPORTANT.

No. 495.

Your telegram 460 of the 26th April.

1. Minimum rates of maintenance are dependent upon methods adopted for dealing with evacuees on arrival in the Union and locality in which they are to be settled. This is partly dependent upon the numbers arriving and the following information is based upon the assumption that the initial evacuation is unlikely to exceed 1,000 persons.
2. No accommodation available in Natal and evacuees would be taken direct from Durban to the Rand where they would be accommodated in rooms in hotels and boarding houses reserved for them in advance by the Union Authorities. Evacuees able to pay themselves would, as soon as they had settled their bills, be allowed to move into such accommodation as they wished, anywhere in the Union. Where evacuees are unable to maintain themselves Union authorities would, as agents for the United Kingdom, be responsible for hotel bills, and would recommend that evacuees should be allowed £1 a month per head in addition. Minimum rates for hotel bills would probably be in the neighbourhood of £9 for an adult, £3 for a child over 10 years and £4 for a child under 10.
3. As soon as possible and within 3 months at the most, evacuees unable to maintain themselves would be required to find accommodation in the area mentioned and would be paid monthly sum sufficient to cover rent, food etc. Sum suggested as minimum is £10 for an adult £18 for husband and wife £22 for husband, wife and child, and additional £2 for each additional child with maximum of £60.
4. Union Government would be responsible for reception and settlement, but wish a United Kingdom official to be made available for the issue of funds to families. They ask that the accredited S.F.O. organization at Durban and Miss Thompson should also assist in the initial few weeks to such extent as may be possible.
5. United Kingdom would be responsible for the maintenance of the evacuees and their transport within the Union on arrival (this can probably be arranged on High Commissioner's warrants), Union for the salaries of the Union officials etc. necessary to supervise reception and settlement.

6.

6. At least 6 weeks warning of the arrival of the first evacuees, and the number involved, would be required as well as nominal rolls in advance, giving information as to sex, age where children are concerned, occupation of the head of the family and extent to which evacuees will be financially self supporting.

7. Rates quoted are for the Rand where there is most accommodation available. If the number of evacuees exceeds 1,000, settlement in other areas will probably be necessary and rates may be different, though they are unlikely to be less. The rates are higher than the minimum initial rates for service families in Natal, but are comparable to the minimum rates for accommodation which will have to be taken for new arrivals from India.

8. There are excellent prospects of adults obtaining employment on the Rand at rates of pay which would enable them to become self supporting. There would be no objection to their obtaining such employment, subject to prior approval of the Union authorities.

9. No member of any family not of pure European descent on both sides could be accepted in the Union.

10. Union authorities would be glad to know whether arrangements may be made on the above lines if need for evacuation arises.

PA 10 E *4/11* **OUTWARD TELEGRAM** *The Under-Secretary of State, India Office*

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kept under Lock and Key.]

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

K 5736/5/250

DISTRIBUTION B.

To EGYPT.

[Cypher]

From FOREIGN OFFICE to CAIRO.

No. 1763.

29th May, 1941.

D. 6.35 p.m. 29th May, 1941.

Your telegram No. 1516 [of 26th May: evacuation]
and my telegram No. 1343 [of 2nd May].

Maintenance rates in South Africa have been approved, and you may therefore if necessary offer facilities for evacuation against undertakings to repay as you suggest for British subjects of pure European descent.

2. Details of maintenance rates and other arrangements for reception proposed by the Union Government are being sent to you by bag for your information. If any number of refugees without funds go to South Africa, it will be necessary to appoint a Consular officer to supervise disbursements there. Mr. Hole or Mr. Sebastian might be suitable for this purpose. Please communicate with the United Kingdom representative at Pretoria before sending any parties off. The Union Government would normally require 6 weeks notice of arrivals.

3. I approve the action reported in your paragraph No. 3, but the psychological element was of great importance in the defence of Greece and I could not agree that steps should, for any reason, have been taken to evacuate British subjects earlier. Similar considerations may well apply in Egypt.

4. I, of course, agree that priority must be given to the persons referred to in your paragraph No. 4.

5. Please let me have some indication as soon as possible of the number of Allies and Egyptians respectively on your list.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.
-4 JUN 1941
INDIA OFFICE

P

2356

1941

Copy:-

*Treas.
clerk
W.O.
Amr.
C.O.
D.O.
M.W.K.*

*10/11
2136
W.M.S.*

2279

8

PA Coll 10 E 62

FILE COPY

Kellmole - Secretary of State

SECRET.

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign AffairsP
2279
1941
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.Copy:- C.O.
D.O.The as.
M. W. T.
Adm.
W. O.
A. M.

K-5736/5/250.

28 MAY 1941

[CYPHER]

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Coll 10 E

W. W. W. W.

Sir M. Lampson.
No. 1516.
26th May, 1941.D. 12.55 p.m. 26th May, 1941.
R. 9.10 p.m. 26th May, 1941.IMPORTANT.SECRET.

Your telegrams Nos. 1343 and 1452.

We have made enquiries but cannot say accurately how many Anglo-Saxon British subjects in Egypt could maintain themselves after evacuation. Eighty per cent might be virtually destitute.

2. At a recent meeting with the Service Chiefs, it was agreed that the first heavy bombing should be made the pretext for the open encouragement of British subjects to leave Egypt from the areas affected. We are anxious to reduce our eventual evacuation problem but there is not much we can do at present in view of military (and indeed political) objection to organised evacuation now as explained in my telegram No. 1029. Meanwhile a small but steady flow of departures has started and Messrs. Cook have a waiting list of several hundred. Visas for South Africa are only obtainable for those with means. Those without means cannot yet be evacuated under your existing instructions, even if their presence is unnecessary here. I suggest that facilities for free evacuation be extended to those who have to be evacuated from bombed areas and are unable to pay.

3. As I am most anxious to avoid criticism heard from many British subjects who have come from Greece, that civilian lives were endangered unnecessarily for the sake of Greek morale and that they might have been warned to move earlier, I am instructing consular officers to inform enquirers of the facilities offered through Messrs. Cook for travel by troop transport should they wish to leave.

4. Meanwhile, I am secretly preparing lists of all (British subjects, allies and Egyptians) who are dangerously compromised or who, owing to their war value, must on no account be left in enemy hands. The idea is to give these priority in an emergency.

5. Since the above was drafted, the British military authorities have asked for our views regarding the evacuation of British subjects from Palestine which they suggest should be co-ordinated with our arrangements here. This aspect is being examined with the military authorities.



Secret

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for OUTWARD TELEGRAM.

The Under-Secretary of State
India Office. (66)

May 10th 1941

K. 4700/5/250.
[Code R]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

P & J

1972

1941

Copied to:- Min. of Ships.

Admty.

W.O.

P.M.

S.O.

C.O.

D.O.

No. 1452

8th May, 1941.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

D. 7.30 p.m. 8th May, 1941.

[] [] []

Your telegram No. 1029 [of April 20th; evacuation].

Can you give an estimate of how many of the 10,500
would have to be maintained in South Africa at the public
expense ?

RECEIVED P. & J. DEPT.
13 MAY 1941
INDIA OFFICE

2. E. P. H.
The Under-Secretary of State,
OUTWARD TELEGRAM *India Office.*

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be

(67)

kept under Lock and Key.]

Secret.

K.4208/5/250.

[Cypher]

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

1823

- 3 MAY 1941

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

*Copy: - Treas.
any
H. of Shps.
C.O.
S.O.
S.O.
W.O.
A.M.*

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No. 1343
May 1st 1941

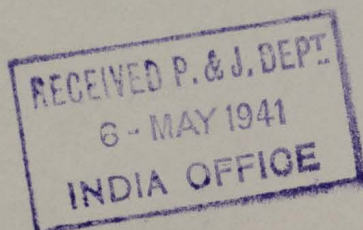
D. 1.00 a.m. May 2nd 1941

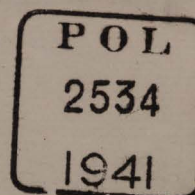
Your telegram No. 1029 [of April 20th:
evacuation].

Funds would be available for the transport of "destitute" Anglo-Saxons to South Africa and for their maintenance there provided the estimated cost of the latter, about which I am now enquiring, is considered reasonable. On the other hand such persons could be sent away at the public expense only when you thought the moment had come to give the warning for general evacuation. We could not pay for "summer holidays."

Gm
on
main
file
I am asking whether the Government of India would accept anything up to 9,000 Maltese from Egypt. We should of course endeavour to evacuate only those who wished to go and I hope the number of these would not be large. In any case the Maltese should be warned before evacuation that there would be little or no chance of their being absorbed in India and that they would be placed in a camp to be maintained there at minimum rates. Other British subjects without funds would of course receive similar treatment in South Africa.

Scham file





CYPRUS TELEGRAM

LONG DISTRIBUTION

From the Acting United Kingdom High Commissioner in the
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO DOMINIONS OFFICE

D. 2nd May, 1941. 16.24 hrs.
R. 2nd " " 16.55 hrs.

IMPORTANT.

No. 495.

Your telegram 460 of the 26th April.

1. Minimum rates of maintenance are dependent upon methods adopted for dealing with evacuees on arrival in the Union and locality in which they are to be settled. This is partly dependent upon the numbers arriving and the following information is based upon the assumption that the initial evacuation is unlikely to exceed 1,000 persons.

2. No accommodation available in Natal and evacuees would be taken direct from Durban to the Rand where they would be accommodated in rooms in hotels and boarding houses reserved for them in advance by the Union Authorities. Evacuees able to pay themselves would, as soon as they had settled their bills, be allowed to move into such accommodation as they wished, anywhere in the Union. Where evacuees are unable to maintain themselves Union authorities would, as agents for the United Kingdom, be responsible for hotel bills, and would recommend that evacuees should be allowed £1 a month per head in addition. Minimum rates for hotel bills would probably be in the neighbourhood of \$9 for an adult, \$6 for a child over 10 years and \$4 for a child under 10.

3. As soon as possible and within 3 months at the most, evacuees unable to maintain themselves would be required to find accommodation in the area mentioned and would be paid monthly sum sufficient to cover rent, food etc. Sum suggested as minimum is \$10 for an adult \$10 for husband and wife \$22 for husband, wife and child, and additional \$2 for each additional child with maximum of \$30.

4. Union Government would be responsible for reception and settlement, but wish a United Kingdom official to be made available for the issue of funds to families. They ask that the accredited S.P.O. organization at Durban and Miss Thompson should also assist in the initial few weeks to such extent as may be possible.

5. United Kingdom would be responsible for the maintenance of the evacuees and their transport within the Union on arrival (this can probably be arranged on High Commissioner's warrants), Union for the salaries of the Union officials etc. necessary to supervise reception and settlement.

6.

-2-

6. At least 6 weeks warning of the arrival of the first evacuees, and the number involved, would be required as well as nominal rolls in advance, giving information as to sex, age where children are concerned, occupation of the head of the family and extent to which evacuees will be financially self supporting.

7. Rates quoted are for the Rand where there is most accommodation available. If the number of evacuees exceeds 1,000, settlement in other areas will probably be necessary and rates may be different, though they are unlikely to be less. The rates are higher than the minimum initial rates for service families in Natal, but are comparable to the minimum rates for accommodation which will have to be taken for new arrivals from India.

8. There are excellent prospects of adults obtaining employment on the Rand at rates of pay which would enable them to become self supporting. There would be no objection to their obtaining such employment, subject to prior approval of the Union authorities.

9. No member of any family not of pure European descent on both sides could be accepted in the Union.

10. Union authorities would be glad to know whether arrangements may be made on the above lines if need for evacuation arises.

SECRET.

K. 4208/5/250.

[Cypher].

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

23 APR 1941

P & J

1592

1941

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

From CAIRO To FOREIGN OFFICE.

Copy:-

W.O.
A.O.
G.O.
D.O.
C.O.
B.O.
H. of Lige.
Treas.

Sir M. Lampson
No. 1029
20th April, 1941.

D. 7.46 p.m. 20th April, 1941.
R. 7.45 a.m. 21st April, 1941.

WWW

IMPORTANT.

Your telegrams Nos. 1071 and 1082.

Evacuation of British subjects from Egypt has naturally been very much in our minds lately and I was about to report. It is beset with difficulties which I have discussed with Commander-in-Chief Middle East.

2. He is emphatic that evacuation of any large number now would seriously impede military efforts both intrinsically and by reason of deplorable effect on Egyptian morale. That seems to me unanswerable. And at once put the problem on military plane.

3. Evacuation may become desirable either because of invasion or bombing. Commander-in-Chief Middle East is definite that immediate large scale invasion is unlikely but bombing may begin any time. In that event many Egyptians would no doubt once more leave the towns and we should not have to worry so much about moral effect of non-essential British subjects leaving via Suez in so far as facilities were available. Essential British subjects would be requested to remain until last possible moment. Having regard to numbers involved (26,000 of which 10,500 are Anglo-Saxon) last minute evacuation of all under threat of invasion is not practical proposition: adequate shipping almost certainly would not be available for such numbers in such emergency. Successful evacuation at any time must depend on circumstances then prevailing which cannot be now foreseen. I do not see how Maltese could be left behind after magnificent resistance Malta has put up. There are about 9,000 of them. Provided there were adequate shipping to take them (which seems to be doubtful) surely they have [? grp. omitted] to be temporarily received somewhere in British territory within reach from here? If it came to the worst and shipping were available I should put them on board and leave the question of their reception to settle itself.

Maltese dealt
with separately
file

a claim?

RECEIVED P. & J. DEPT.

23 APR 1941

INDIA OFFICE

5 [sic].

SECRET
X + 8222 522
5[sic] In view of your telegram No. 1071 evacuation of Allied nationals must be limited to those who are most compromised but once we begin to evacuate British subjects there will be embarrassing requests for similar treatment by Allied representatives and no doubt by other foreign communities. Some of them (e.g. Free French) have already raised the question. And in the last resort it would be impossible without use of force to prevent any foreigners moving along roads possibly essential for military operations.

6. If at any stage evacuation proved impossible the remaining British subjects would have to be advised to "stay put" as in England but you will appreciate that the situation here is very different, and that we should have to face considerable odium in that event if they had been led to expect evacuation and every reasonable effort had not been made to arrange for it.

7. I have today informed British Community Council that for the time being it is desirable that there should be no organised evacuation of British subjects and that in the event of bombing starting on any scale the question of evacuation will be reconsidered with Service authorities whose co-operation in any plan is essential. I have also reminded them that special facilities have already been arranged through Thomas Cook for British subjects to leave Egypt on their own and suggested that while there is no immediate emergency various problems would be simplified if British subjects or at least their families took their holidays outside Egypt this summer. Very few British subjects have so far used these facilities, which in any case are only available for those who can afford to pay. May I be authorised if necessary to extend these facilities to poorer members of the community against undertaking of repayment?

8. I arranged this morning with Community Council at my normal weekly meeting with them that they should depute one of their members to keep in closest touch with members of my staff handling this question. Community would thus have confidence that their fate was not being neglected and I impressed on them the need for absolute secrecy and my complete confidence that they would play [? up] in whatever requirements might be considered best in the public interest. This brought from Council a ready response.

25 APR 1941

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

The Under-Secretary of State
India Office

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SECRET.

kept under Lock and Key.]

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

(K.4029/5/250).

[Cypher]

1591

1941

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

24 APR 1941

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No. 1082
April 12th 1941.

D. 6.30 p.m. April 12th 1941

Copy:- M. of Ships.

Repeated to F.O.C.R.I.N. for Mr. MacKereth No. 34.

The as.

copy.

C.O.

D.O.

B.O.

W.C. A.M.

My telegram No. 1438 [of December 3rd: Evacuation].

Do you think the time has come to review evacuation plans? Having regard to the shipping position and the numbers who might wish to go would evacuation be feasible in present circumstances?

2. Arrangements could no doubt be made for "Anglo-Saxon" British subjects to go to South Africa (and be maintained there at the public expense against undertakings to repay if they lacked funds). The Union Government would, however, require reasonable notice of prospective arrivals. Dominion nationals Indians and Burmese could presumably go to their own countries at their governments' expense but I have been unable to find any haven for Maltese, etc.

3. The question of Allied nationals etc. which you have mentioned is now, of course, vastly complicated by the large number of Greeks in Egypt and the course of events in the Balkans.

4. Have any considerable number of British Subjects Anglo Saxon or otherwise left already.

RECEIVED P. & J. DEPT.

28 APR 1941

INDIA OFFICE

INDEXED

Colonial Office File COPY 13139/15/40

With the compliments of the P. & J. Colonial Office

Date 28 NOV 1940

Reference

13139/15/40.

6353. 6347. wq.

PA. JH. (not overleaf)

M 72
P. & J.
5485
November, 1940.
1940

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter reference K 10533/8886/880 of the 5th November regarding a proposal for the evacuation of civilian British subjects from Egypt, and to request you to inform Viscount Halifax that Lord Lloyd for his part would not think it desirable that the policy of His Majesty's Government in this matter should go further than assisting British subjects in Egypt, who wish to leave and have the means to provide for themselves, to obtain transport facilities. He notes that His Majesty's Ambassador in Egypt and the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, feel that any attempt at mass evacuation would have unfortunate political results. Under modern war conditions active military operations inevitably cause danger to civilian populations, and these dangers are being faced in other theatres of war such as the United Kingdom and Malta. It seems a matter for serious consideration whether the transfer of large numbers of people, who cannot support themselves, to other countries and climates - attended as such a move must be by hardship, privation and no doubt considerable danger to health - would be in the best interests of the British subjects now in Egypt.

2. Nevertheless if it were decided to put into effect an official scheme for the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt, Lord Lloyd feels strongly that it is essential that the scheme should not involve any distinction of treatment between British subjects based upon their origin i.e. if persons who belong to the United Kingdom are included, persons of Maltese and Cypriot origin cannot be excluded. Unfortunately it is not possible to provide a refuge in the Colonies for the large number

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

MAILS BRANCH
29 NOV 1940

number of Maltese and Cypriots who are now in Egypt, but Lord Lloyd is unable to accept the implication in the draft telegram enclosed with your letter under reference that a refuge for these British subjects can, because they are of Colonial origin, only be provided in Colonial territories. He would suggest, subject to the views of the Secretaries of State for India and Dominion Affairs, that the Governments of India and the Commonwealth of Australia might be pressed to provide for them. The telegram from the Government of India of the 5th of July No. 1604 to the India Office enclosed with India Office letter to the Foreign Office PI 4544/40 of the 24th of August indicates that the Government of India would be prepared to do their utmost to overcome difficulties in this respect if other alternatives are not available, and it is understood that the Dominions Office might be ready to approach the Commonwealth Government on the same basis. Copies of this letter are being sent to the India Office, Dominions Office, Admiralty, War Office and Treasury.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. A. CALDER

* No action required by I.O.
unless requested by F.O.
It is clear from P2 6353
that Mr Mackenzie is already
seized of this question.

df

Amc INDEXED

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FILE COPY

The Under-Secretary
of State, India Office.

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be

With the Compliments
of the

kept under Lock and Key.]

Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

(K10533/8856/250)

4 DEC 1940

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENTAL No. 840

6533

1940

Cypher telegram to Sir M. Lampson (Cairo)

Foreign Office. 3rd December, 1940. 3.50 p.m.

No. 1,438.

ccccccc

6511-2794 1/2

6502-2794 1/2

2794 1/2
6451.

Your telegram No. 1605 [of November 25th. Evacuation].

I approve your action about which I had been in
communication with the War Office and in view of the
difficulty of finding a destination for the Maltese
I do not think we can do any more for the present. I
am however, continuing to investigate the possibilities.

C.D. POL. DEPT.
5 DEC 1940
INDIA OFFICE

FILE COPY

P.Z.

6451

1940

74

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

Decypher. Sir M. Lampson. (Cairo)

25th November, 1940.

D. 9.53 p.m.

25th November, 1940.

R.10.5 am.

26th November, 1940.

No. 1605.

4544 ----- 5668.

My telegrams No.869 and 1298.

4933. Your telegram No.905.

5668. 1. Pending instructions on A. & B. of my telegram No.1289 which are urgently awaited I am making arrangements for British Subjects who may wish to leave Egypt at their own expense before an emergency (see paragraph 4 (1) of my telegram 869). Under the present conditions number of these is expected to be very small but may reach 1,000 if air bombardment became intense.

2. Army can provide accomodation for civilians at reasonable rates in ships under Government charter proceeding to South Africa and United Kingdom but cannot undertake to deal with individuals and I am therefore entrusting booking arrangements to Cook & Son.

3. Army have made arrangements through United Kingdom High Commissioner in South Africa for reception and accomodation at agreed rates of military drafts. I am telegraphing to ask Sir E. Harding whether these arrangements can be extended to include Anglo-Egyptian Sudan civilians on the understanding that the entire cost would be defrayed by individual civilians.

INDEXED

Copy.
(K 10533/8856/250)

M. 683/2.

CYPHER TELEGRAM

With the Comptroller
FILE COPY

Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

28 NOV 1940

6451

CONFIDENTIAL 1940

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

LONG DISTRIBUTION

The Under Secretary
of State
India Office

To the United Kingdom High Commissioner in the Union of
South Africa.

Sent 11.15 hrs., 21st Nov., 1940.

No. 767. Secret.

In the course of examination of possible contingencies in Egypt consideration has been given to position of British community resident there. View of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is that if compelling circumstances should arise every endeavour should be made to evacuate from Egypt all British subjects who might wish to leave. The question of evacuation to India has received careful consideration but the Government of India reported that suitable accommodation in areas with reasonably suitable climatic conditions in India is extremely limited and is already more than normally full. In these circumstances we are anxious to ascertain whether it would be possible for British subjects in Egypt of European descent to be evacuated to the Union of South Africa should necessity arise. It will be appreciated that question at the moment is solely that of making plans in advance in the event of the contingency arising particularly in view of the considerable number of British subjects resident in Egypt. Number of women and children involved is estimated at about 6,000 and of men 4,500, but it is not known how many of these would wish to be evacuated. Idea would be that those who could not support themselves would be maintained at cost of United Kingdom Government against their undertaking to repay, but if Union Government were ready to receive the evacuees, as suggested, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would be glad to receive some indication of minimum rates of maintenance which it would be reasonable to pay while in South Africa. Please approach Union Government accordingly and telegraph their views.

REC'd. POL. DEPT.
30 NOV 1940
INDIA OFFICE

INDEXED FILE COPY

13/39/15740
76
29/10

With the com...

Date 6 OCT 13139/15/40.

Reference

P.Z.
5870
1940

P & J
5030
1940

5813.
5820.

6 OCT 1940

With reference to Foreign Office letter No.K.10533/8856/250 of the 16th of October concerning the evacuation of British subjects and other nationals from Egypt, I am directed by Lord Lloyd to invite attention to the letter from this Department of the 2nd of September. The considerations advanced in that letter still remain valid. Lord Lloyd would only add that, so far as Mauritius is concerned, the difficulties have been increased by recent proposals which may have the effect of placing a further strain upon the accommodation available in the Colony.

2. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Treasury, Admiralty, Dominions Office and India Office.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. A. GARDNER

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

INDEXED

Confidential.

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

16th Oct. 1940.

5668

1940

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

The Under-Secretary

FILE COPY of State.

P. D. India office.

uly.

uly.

F.O. No. - K. 10533/8856/250.

Decypher. Sir M. Lampson (Cairo)
14th October, 1940.

D. 9.45 p.m. 14th October, 1940.

R. 8.10 a.m. 15th October, 1940.

No. 1298

& & & & & &

IMPORTANT.

4933.

Your telegram No. 905 and your despatch No. 480 of
September 5th.

4544
4933. Numbers for eventual evacuation given in my telegram No. 869
have been revised to give effect to recommendations in your
telegram No. 905. Estimated totals of Anglo-Saxon women and
children 6000, men 4500: other British 8500 and 7300. If
free French and friendly Italian (see my telegram No. 1011)
plus Allied Nationals and Americans are added, grand total
estimated at 18,400 women and children, 14,900 men. Questions of
collection, protection, control of embarkation and as far as possible
shipping accommodation, are being studied here in collaboration
with service authorities, but my co-operation in preparing scheme
cannot go beyond making arrangements for getting evacuees on
high seas. There remain two urgent questions of

(a) reception of evacuees somewhere in Empire and

(b) financial assistance for their maintenance. In spite
of difficulties appearing from your despatch No. 480 I hope
that further representations may have secured havens for
probable evacuees, as failing this, any scheme would be useless.
(b) is equally essential and could only be supplied by Treasury.
No doubt some evacuees could eventually repay money so spent
on them or [grp. undec.] but nearly all would require initial
support. May I have urgent instructions on (a) and (b) pending
which matters must remain held up.

ENCLOSURE IN AIR MAIL LETTER

No. 42 26 OCT 1940

FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL DEPT.

INDIA OFFICE

REC'D. POL. DEPT.

17 OCT 1940

INDIA OFFICE

P. A. B. L. 7/15

4157/40

W. Wallis

P & J
4552
1940

78

13139/15/40.

26th September, 1940.

Sir,

With reference to the telegram No. 905 of the 7th of September addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador, Cairo (Foreign Office reference No. K.9799/8856/250) and previous correspondence concerning the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt, I am directed by Lord Lloyd to request you to inform Viscount Halifax that he appreciates that it may be difficult to find a refuge for the Maltese who are at present in Egypt; and he notes that the Dominions Office consider that it is unlikely that any of the Dominions would be prepared to receive them. Nevertheless, it would, in his opinion, create a most unfortunate impression in Malta and elsewhere if any officially sponsored scheme were introduced for the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt from which the Maltese, as such, were excluded.

2. Lord Lloyd would accordingly be glad to be kept in touch with the development of the British Ambassador's plans for evacuation in order that he may have an opportunity of considering the matter further if such a situation were likely to arise.

3. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Admiralty, Treasury, Dominions Office and the India Office.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. A. CALDER

MAILS BRANCH
26 SEP 1940

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

INDEXED

copy recd.

C.O.
D.O.

Copy.

Treasury

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

-3 OCT 1940

P.Z.

5376

1940

The Under-Secretary
of State, (79)
India Office.

Ministry of Shipping,
Berkeley Square House,
Berkeley Square,
London, W.1.

No. (K 9799/8856/250) I.O. No. P.Z. 4544/40

T. 010353/S.T.A.1.

Sir,

26 September 1940.

With reference to your letter of 5th September, (K.9799/8856/250) in regard to the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt, I have to inform you that there will be opportunities for the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt so far as shipping is concerned, as, in the main, the vessels which are being used for the movement of troops to the Middle East are returning, and are likely to continue to return, empty.

Most of the vessels in question will be returning to this country via the Cape, so that they could be used to the Cape ports or the West African Colonies without any diversion at all, and, moreover, could call at the East African ports without seriously interfering with their normal itineraries.

Again, there will be vessels returning from Egypt to India and these could, if essential, call also at Colombo or other ports in proximity thereto if the Military situation permits.

As regards Australia, however, it is likely that most of the ships which will be used from Australia and New Zealand will not be able to proceed up the Red Sea, and so will have to tranship their personnel at Colombo or Bombay. Thus, any return movement from Egypt to Australia or New Zealand would have to be arranged on similar lines, and in this connection, it is pointed out that it may not be possible to synchronise the arrival at the intermediate port, such as Bombay, of the vessels arriving from Egypt with those about to return to Australia, so that arrangements for accommodating the evacuees during the period of waiting would have to be made.

A more detailed consideration of the shipping position can only be given when particulars of the numbers involved, the proposed destinations and the time when they will be available for embarkation are known.

I am, etc.,
(Sd.) W. G. H. H. H.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

ENCLOSURE IN AIR MAIL LETTER
NO. 640 HYNARD 2 OCT 1940
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL DEPT.
INDIA OFFICE

Secret.

P2 5177/40

(2)

U.S.S.

Domst. Office

The U.S.S. for I. presents
his compliments to The U.S.S. for
Dominion Affairs and with
reference to the latter's memor^{um}
of the 16th Sept^r, no. M. 683/1,
is directed to state that a copy
of India Office letter no. P2.
4544/40, dated the 24th August,
on the subject of the vaccination
of British Subjects from Egypt,
was sent to him on the 24th
August. A further copy is
enclosed herewith.

24 SEP 1940

24 SEP 1940

13
9

Transfer to P.L. (Ex. 2) *all* *44* *13* *2* *W* *(81)*
FILE COPY
INDEXED **INDEXED** **P. 2.**
5177
M
9213
1940

MILITARY M. 683/1. **SECRET. 1940** *Mls.*
EF 10 *FFT*
18 SEP 1940
4933
4684.

P.P. *8998*
WITH *Jon 18/9*
The Under Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State, India Office, and with reference to the letter from the Dominions Office M.683/1 of the 22nd of August regarding the possible need for the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt, is directed by the Secretary of State to request that a copy may be furnished of the India Office letter to the Foreign Office on the subject.

DOWNING STREET,
16 September, 1940.

INDEXED

FILE COPY

The Under-Secretary of State, (82)

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

P.Z.

6125

1940

India Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy
(K 10553/8856/250)
No. 905.
(763/112/40)

6096 int 11/11
6078 int

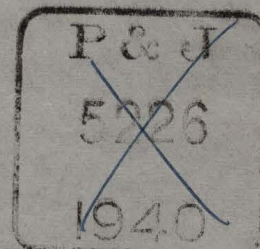
No. 2

6 pps
Mr G.

His Majesty's Ambassador presents his compliments
to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign
Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith copies of
the under-mentioned paper.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
CAIRO.

20th September, 1940.



Reference to previous communication:

Foreign Office telegram No. 905 of 5. 9. 40.

4933

Description of Enclosure.

Name, Date, etc.

Subject.

To:- Commander-in-Chief, Middle
East, Cairo.
No. 763/112/40 of 20.9.40.
(with last enclosure only).

Evacuation of civilian British
subjects from Egypt in event
of emergency.



Copy.

No. 763/112/40.

IMMEDIATE.

P.Z.

6125

1940

BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

20th September, 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit copies of the under-mentioned documents on the subject of the evacuation of civilian British subjects from Egypt :-

4544.

My telegram No. 869 of the 6th August to the Foreign Office.

4933.

Foreign Office telegram No. 905 of the 5th September in reply thereto.

My despatch No. 763/112/40 of today's date to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

2. You will observe that the Foreign Office have approved my proposals and that we are therefore concerned with two separate problems :-

- (1) The provision of facilities for, and the encouragement of, those British subjects who may be willing to leave Egypt on their own initiative, and at their own expense, in advance of an emergency.
- (2) The preparation of a scheme for the general evacuation, under Government auspices, of the whole or part of the British civilian community if and when an emergency becomes imminent.

3. In regard to the first of these problems I am advised that, unless the British Community is given a lead, the number of persons who would leave of their own accord, even if passages were readily available, would not be large enough to make any appreciable difference to the problem of general evacuation which might have to be dealt with at a later stage. On the other hand it has been suggested that the heads of large firms might be invited to encourage their employees to send their families away, and if this were done others would no doubt follow their example, and the numbers remaining to be dealt with might be materially reduced.

4. The extent to which voluntary departures are to be encouraged in this or other ways may eventually have to be considered from the political point of view, but it appears to be more important at this stage that we should know the approximate number of civilian women and children for whom passages could be provided in such ships as may be sailing from Egypt in the near future, and the probable destinations of the ships. You will observe that I am consulting the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, on these points, but I infer from Colonel McCandlish's letter CR/MK/1235/7/A of the 11th September, on the subject of

/evacuation

General Sir Archibald P. Wavell,
K.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C.,
Commander-in-Chief, Middle East,
CAIRO.

SECRET
6155

evacuation from Palestine, that most of the available accommodation is likely to be in transports, and that such accommodation is under the control of your General Headquarters. I recognise also that a large proportion of the available accommodation will be required for the evacuation of service families. The fact remains, however, that, in order to enable me to decide how far it is desirable to encourage voluntary departures, it is necessary that I should be in possession of all the available information regarding the accommodation which could be offered to British civilian women and children in ships leaving Egypt, say, during the next three months, and regarding the destinations of these ships. I should therefore be extremely grateful if you would arrange to discuss these questions with the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, and if you or he could then let me have a reply covering all categories of shipping.

5. The problem of general evacuation when an emergency is imminent is, of course, a very much more serious and more difficult one, the more so because the numbers to be considered are an unknown quantity. The Foreign Office have given no specific ruling in regard to the categories of British subjects to be included though they indicate that it may be impossible to find a haven for the Maltese, and the same would presumably apply to Cypriots and others not born in the United Kingdom or of Anglo-Saxon stock. If we were dealing only with civilian women and children of the latter categories the total number, on the assumption that some would already have left on their own initiative, would probably be about 6,000. If the women and children of the entire British civilian community were to be included the number would be increased to 24,000, and this would be nearly doubled if the men were evacuated. Free Frenchmen and their families, Belgians, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, Poles, Czechs and Americans might also have to be considered and would amount to at least 2,000. Our unknown quantity may therefore vary between 6,000 and 50,000 and will probably be determined not so much by political or humanitarian considerations as by the possibilities of shipping and of arrangements for reception in India, South Africa, or elsewhere.

6. The consideration of plans for evacuation appears to come under the following headings :-

- (a) The selection of those to be evacuated.
- (b) The warning of those selected to be in readiness to leave, which should be given as soon as possible after, but not before, the decision that evacuation is to take place.
- (c) The assembling of those to be evacuated and their removal to the ports of embarkation from their places of residence which, in addition to Cairo, Alexandria and the Canal towns, would include provincial towns and outlying districts.
- (d) Accommodation, rationing and protection pending embarkation at the port or ports of departure, the principal one of which, if not the only one, would presumably be Suez.
- (e) The provision of shipping, and presumably conveying, to the ports of destination.

/(f)

(84)

(f) Arrangements for reception and accommodation at the ports of destination.

(g) The financing of the scheme.

7. The responsibility for (a), the selection of the civilians to be evacuated, will obviously devolve on this Embassy assisted by the Consular Officers. The selection will necessarily depend to some extent on (f) and (g), the arrangements which can be made for reception overseas and the financing of the scheme, and I will take up both these questions with the Foreign Office on receipt of the further information referred to in the last paragraph of Foreign Office telegram No. 905. The governing factor, will however, be (e), the provision of the necessary shipping, and I am relying on the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, for information on this point. I have no doubt that you will co-operate with him in so far as transports under your control are concerned.

8. In regard to headings (b), (c) and (d) of paragraph 6, it is agreed that general evacuation is not to take place till an emergency is imminent and it is therefore evident that plans must be based on the assumption that public security arrangements and normal means of transport may have ceased to operate. In these circumstances the warning, assembling and moving of the persons to be evacuated, and the arrangements to be made for them at Suez or elsewhere pending embarkation, would be operations which could only be undertaken by the Military Authorities, and in which the Civilian Defence Force as a military unit would presumably play a part. It might appear at first sight that the preparations of concentration camps for those waiting to embark at Suez or elsewhere, and the provision of rations, could be undertaken by Consular Officers or Civilian Community Committees, but I fear that it would be impossible for civilians, with no executive machinery at their disposal, to carry out such undertakings with the necessary degree of secrecy. Either the preparations would be made too late to be of any use or the fact that evacuation was contemplated would become public property weeks in advance.

9. My endeavour in this letter has been to trace the general lines to be followed in the preparation of the evacuation scheme which the Foreign Office have instructed me to prepare. I shall welcome any criticisms or suggestions you may have to offer, and I should like in particular to know whether you agree with my assumption that the operations defined under headings (b) (c) and (d) of paragraph 6 would be a military responsibility.

10. In regard to the evacuation of civilians from Palestine which was the subject of Colonel McCandlish's letter of the 11th September to this Embassy, there appear, as in the case of Egypt, to be two separate matters to consider; the provision of facilities for those civilians who may desire to leave on their own initiative, including refugees from Syria and the Balkans, and the general evacuation of British civilians in the event of an emergency. The first appears to be a matter for arrangement between the Palestine Government and your General Headquarters, or possibly the Commander/

Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean. The second would have to be taken up, in its financial and other aspects, by the High Commissioner for Palestine with His Majesty's Government. I feel, that all I can usefully do at this stage is to furnish Sir Harold MacMichael with copies of this letter, of my letter of to-day's date to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean and of the enclosures thereto. I am having this done.

11. I am also sending copies of both letters to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, for information, and to His Majesty's Ambassador at Ankara, for the information of Mr. Mackerseth, and copies of both letters with enclosures, to the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Royal Air Force, Middle East, and to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, British Troops in Egypt.

I have etc.,
(Sd) MILES W. LAMPSON.

3047
(H 10538/8886/280)

768/112/40.

IMMEDIATE.

P.Z.

6125

1940

BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

20th September, 1940.

Sir,

With reference to your telegram of the 14th September to the Admiralty I have the honour to transmit copies of the undermentioned documents on the subject of the evacuation of civilian British subjects from Egypt:-

4544. My telegram No. 869 of the 6th August to the Foreign Office.

4933. Foreign Office telegram No. 908 of the 5th September in reply thereto.

My letter No. 768/112/40 of today's date to the Commander-in Chief, Middle East.

2. In regard to the relatively less important question of shipping facilities for British civilians who may desire to leave Egypt on their own initiative and at their own expense, you will observe that I have suggested to General Wavell that he should discuss the matter with you. I hope that, when he has done so, you or he may be able to give me the information necessary to enable me to decide how far persons who may be willing to leave should be encouraged to do so.

3. The problem of the general evacuation of civilian British subjects from Egypt is extremely complex, but, so far as I am able to judge, the governing factor will be the amount of shipping which could be made available. It will be difficult to make any appreciable progress without knowing the answers to the following questions:-

- (i) Would it be possible to make arrangements for the provision, at a few days notice, of sufficient shipping accommodation to convey 6,000 British women and children from Egyptian ports to India, South Africa, or elsewhere?
- (ii) On the assumption that the reply to (i) is in the affirmative, could the arrangements be extended to accommodate 80,000 (of whom about half would be men), and if not what is the maximum number to which we should work?
- (iii) What would be the ports of embarkation and the destinations?

4. I am conscious of the fact that these questions may be very difficult to answer, and that it may be necessary for you to refer to the Admiralty, Board of Trade, and Ministry of Shipping, and to consult the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East. You will realise, however, that the scope and limitations of the scheme which I have been instructed to prepare will depend mainly on the answers to the questions and I therefore trust that you will give your earnest consideration to the matter.

5. I am sending copies of this letter and of my

Admiral

Sir Andrew B. Cunningham,

K.C.B., D.S.O.,

Commander-in-Chief,

Mediterranean Station.

/letter



letter to the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for information, and to His Majesty's Ambassador at Ankara, for the information of Mr. Mackereth, and copies of both letters, with enclosures, to the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Royal Air Force, Middle East, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, British Troops in Egypt and the High Commissioner for Palestine.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) Miles W. Lampson.



INDEXED

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FILE COPY

The Under-Secretary of State
India Office (87)

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be

kept under Lock and Key.]

4684
4441.
4933

1940

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION.

F.O. No.: K 9799/8856/250.

Cypher telegram to Sir M. Lampson (Cairo).

Foreign Office. 7th September, 1940. 2.20 p.m.

No. 905

a.a.a.a.a.a.a

4544.

Your telegram No. 869.

I entirely approve your proposals.

4441.

720) It is my view (see paragraph 2 of my telegram No. 720) that, generally speaking, every endeavour should be made if compelling circumstances arise to evacuate all British subjects who wish to leave. If any feasible alternative exists, they should not be left against their will to run the risks of battle and possibly of subsequent enemy domination and British blockade and bombing. The maintenance through neutral channels of any considerable number of destitute British subjects in enemy hands would moreover constitute a drain on our financial resources.

In practice, however, evacuation must depend on the availability of transport and suitable destinations, factors which are bound to present special and perhaps insuperable difficulty in view of the large number of British subjects in Egypt. I observe that you will discuss shipping facilities with the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean. As regards possible destinations, I have sent you copies of letters from the Dominions Office, India Office, and Colonial Office for your guidance. You will see that it may well be impossible to provide a haven at any rate for the Maltese.

Repeated to Angora No. 905 and Bagdad No. 459.
(for Mr. Mackereth).



WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- 9 SEP 1940.

Ref:- F.O. letter of same reference number
of 14th August.

Colonial Office Reference No. 13139/15/40

With the compliments of the U.S. of S.
Colonial Office

Date 2 SEP 1940

Reference

13139/15/40.

P & J

4157

1940

September, 1940.

2 SEP 1940

2268/45

M. Walker

(see also 4119 with M. W.)

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. K 9799/8856/250 of the 13th August, regarding the possible need for the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt, I am directed by Lord Lloyd to request you to lay the following observations before Viscount Halifax. As regards the general question of evacuation, it would appear that there will be in any case great difficulty in providing for the evacuation of so large a number of persons. If however it is decided as a matter of general policy to prepare a scheme for the evacuation of the "Anglo-Saxon" women and children in Egypt, Lord Lloyd feels that it would be necessary to provide equal facilities for Maltese and Cypriots and others who are also British subjects.

2. It would not be possible for the Maltese community to go to Malta at the present time. It might, however, be possible with great difficulty to arrange for the Cypriots to go to Cyprus if transport facilities were made available, and if the already embarrassed finances of the island was not mulcted for their maintenance. If it is considered desirable to explore this, no doubt His Majesty's Ambassador in Egypt will consult the Governor of Cyprus. As regards other destinations in the Colonial Empire, Lord Lloyd is advised that no Colonial Dependency in the Indian Ocean area, with the possible exception of Mauritius, is in a position to receive women and children evacuated from Egypt. He would have been willing to ask the Governor of Mauritius whether arrangements could be made to receive any evacuees from Egypt, provided that no expense falls on the Mauritius Government. He has however recently been informed that for health reasons, particularly the prevalence of malaria, Mauritius is not a suitable place to which, as planned, some 4,000 persons consisting mainly of women and children evacuated from Gibraltar should be sent, and the proposal for moving those evacuees to Mauritius has had to be abandoned.

In

RECEIVED P. & J. DEPT.
- 3 SEP 1940
INDIA OFFICE

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

In the circumstances it would presumably be impossible to consider Mauritius for the reception of evacuees from Egypt.

3. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Admiralty, Treasury, Dominions Office and India Office.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. A. CALDER



With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

The Under-Secretary
of State,
India Office. (89)

CONFIDENTIAL

pol
F.O. No.: K. 9799/8856/250

19 OCT 1940
5759
LIMITED DISTRIBUTION
1940

See Sir V.D.
P.S.D.
4927
1940

Sir M. Lampson (Cairo)

30th August, 1940.

D. 11.5 p.m.

30th August, 1940.

R. 8.25 p.m.

31st August, 1940.

No. 1011.

My telegrams No. 869 and No. 942.

1. I presume that if emergency arose which was held to necessitate evacuation of British subjects it would also be necessary to evacuate I French civilians who have declared themselves for De Gaulle movement, II any Italians who have been working for us.

2. I cannot give accurate estimate of numbers involved but they would run into several hundreds.

3. In the event of my being asked by Allied representatives here to assist in evacuating their communities, I would propose to disclaim responsibility while undertaking to afford them such assistance e.g. as regards transport as might be possible at the time.

Repeated to Angora for Mr. Mackereth.



FILE COPY

INDEXED

Dominions Office Reference No. M 683/1With the Compliments of Mr. DuceDate 22/8/40Reference Flotell K 9799/8856/250

13/8/40

SECRET.

M.683/1

- 4552
- 4544.
Lancashire 620 4/6

4684

1940

22 August, 1940.

4006

1940

Dear Hutcheon,

You sent us a copy of your official letter to the Colonial Office of the 13th August K.9799/8856/250 with regard to the possibility of evacuation of British subjects from Egypt.

You did not ask specifically for the observations of the Dominions Office, but you may like to have our preliminary views on the subject.

It can, we think, be taken for granted that there is no likelihood of any of the Dominions being prepared to receive any of the 19,000 Maltese, Cypriots, etc., referred to in Sir Miles Lampson's telegram. We recently asked the Union Government whether they would be prepared to accommodate a number of evacuees from Gibraltar and they definitely refused. It is most probable that their attitude and that of the other Dominion Governments would be similar as regards the persons now in question.

As regards the six or seven thousand "Anglo-Saxons", all the oversea Dominions are prepared to receive British children from this country, and in addition Australia is at present receiving British women and children from Hong Kong and the Union has agreed in principle to receive the wives and families of Service personnel from the Middle East. Moreover, although no approach has yet been made to the Dominions concerned, we have had it in mind that Australia might be a possible destination for British subjects from the Netherlands East Indies and the Union of South Africa for British women and children from the West African Colonies, if evacuation of those persons should at any time prove necessary.

A.B. HUTCHEON, ESQ., M.B.E.

If

RECEIVED P. & J. DEPT.
23 AUG 1940
INDIA OFFICE

INDEXED

If it were desired, we should be prepared to approach the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa as to the possibility of their receiving British women and children from Egypt; the Dominions would, of course, require to be satisfied that there was no question of any liability falling upon their public funds. Before, however, any approach is made to these Dominions, we should be glad if the possibility of India as a destination for the persons concerned could be fully explored, in view of the other demands, which, as mentioned above, are being made upon the Dominions.

Copies of this letter are being sent to the Treasury, Admiralty, India Office and Colonial Office.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. C. W. Dixon



DRAFT LETTER to—

No. of copies—

PZ 4544/40 (91)

SECRET.

M

Put away after issue.....

Return to Mr.....

Copy for

Reminder on.....

Special Instructions
to Registry - -

Examined in Registry.....

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

24 AUG 1940

INDIA OFFICE,

In reply to your letter of the

I am directed to inform you that

Sir,

to the S/S for l.

I am directed to refer to the letter from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office dated 13th August No. K9799/8856/230 in regard to the possible evacuation of British subjects from Egypt and to the telegrams from His Majesty's Ambassador in Cairo which were enclosed with that letter.

to the S/S for l.
I am to forward for the information of Viscount Halifax the enclosed copy of a telegram from the Government of India in regard to the evacuation of service families from the Middle East to India. It will be seen that the Government of India are, in general, opposed to the evacuation of Europeans to India unless this is unavoidable, that there will be considerable local difficulties to be met, and that if it should prove/

ENCLOSURE IN AIR MAIL LETTER
No. 35 7 SEP 1940
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL DEPT.
INDIA OFFICE

21 5 July.

24 AUG 1940

MILITARY DEPT. (FORM 10).

prove necessary to arrange such an evacuation, the Government of India will require as much notice as possible. The War Office and the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, have been informed of the Government of India's views, ~~but it would appear that there is some danger of lack of co-ordination between the arrangements for the evacuation of civilian and service families unless the Ambassador and the Commander in Chief, work in close contact.~~

[No doubt the requirements for the different classes of families may differ, and the possibility of accommodation in India can usefully be further explored by Mr. Mackereth, ~~but Mr.~~

~~Amery would suggest that the Ambassador should be advised to keep in close touch with the Commander in Chief in regard to India's views on this subject.~~

and Mr. Amery would suggest that H.M.'s Ambassador in Cairo should also be apprised of them, in case they should not already have come to his notice, & that he should be advised to maintain close contact with the C. in C. in this matter in order that due co-ordination between the evacuation arrangements for civilians & for service families may be ensured.

A copy of this letter & enclos. are being sent to the C.O.,

D.O., Admalty & Treasury.

(Sgd.) J. P. GIBSON

Mr. Simpson J.A.S.
Mr. Turnbull (92)

Sum. There are
considerations is also
Military Secretary con. of families of
Senior personnel who is
be considered separately
Secretary, P. & J. Dept.

For information -

if you are interested.

John
12/8

INDEXED



P.P.S 7109,
to Swin 12/8

There seems some danger
of lack of coordination
between civil & military
authorities on this subject

J.A.S.

19/8

Copy of the Concept to Lucka

r.p.a.

Sign

13
8

(93)

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Considerable discussion has been going on about the evacuation of the families of British Service personnel from the Middle East if the necessity should arise. It was suggested that families should be sent to India and India's re-actions are shown in the attached telegram, and I suggest that you should write to the Foreign Office on the lines of the attached draft to ensure that the Ambassador in dealing with civilian families, is aware of India's views expressed in connection with service families.

Y. Y. Lumbh

2/8

Allotted to Military Department.

Copies Circulated.

5367.

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

From Government of India, Defence Department, to
Secretary of State for India.

Dated Simla, 00.40 hrs. 5th July, 1940.

Received 03.00 hrs. 5th July, 1940.

1604. 4/7. Your telegram No. 3405, 29th June. Suitable accommodation in areas with reasonable all-the- (? year) climatic conditions in India is extremely limited (and is) already more than normally full, as many families of individuals serving or employed in India who would normally be in England are here for the duration of the war. Moreover general conditions most unsuitable for people with moderate incomes having no experience of living among large Indian population. Except for wives of Indian Army Officers already acquainted with Indian conditions who would, in any case, have to make own arrangements on arrival here we most strongly deprecate any idea of evacuating women and children from Middle East to India. Suggest possibility of South Africa, Ceylon and Australia be examined. Naturally if, despite the disadvantages, India should prove the only practicable refuge we should be willing to do our utmost to overcome difficulties.

INDEXED

SECRET.

MINISTRY OF SHIPPING. FILE COPY

MESSAGE.

173.

P.Z.
4552

IN

From

P.S.T.O. East Indies, Bombay.

1940

RECEIVED:—

DATE 13.8.40

TIME 2240.

Naval Cypher (A) by C. & W.

Addressed

P.S.T.O. Egypt, Port. Said. Repeated C. in C. East Indies, D. of S.T.

My 0730 28th July berth accommodation of Egyptian ship SUBR (KHEDIVE ISMAIL) is as follows first 90 second 27 and 280 in double tier cots in troop decks. British ship GL2C (LANCASHIRE) has only 135 single cots in troop decks as no ~~ENIA~~ more double tier cots were available. British ship GMLT (NEVADA) unable X to sail owing to rudder repairs was replaced by British ship GCSF (EORA) and has only first 35, second 30 berths available and no double tier ~~ENIA~~ cots in troop decks.

12112/13.

re evacuation of women and children to India and South Africa.

Advance copy sent D. of S.T.

D of S T.
-File X.

BLH/

D of S T
Mr. Dorrell
" A MCarter
" J N Wood
" L C Hills
S T A 1 (2) Action
Mr. Langford
War Office
-India Office
P.C.O. (ST)
Extra.

14 AUG 1940

INDIA OFFICE

INDEXED

S.O. No. 9799/8856/250

FILE COPY

*The Under-Secretary of State
India Office*

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF **P.Z.**

FOREIGN OFFICE,

THE UNDER SECRETARY **4544**

S.S.I.

13th August, 1940.

STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS **1940**

Secret

14 AUG 1940

note

? 3101.

I am directed by Viscount Halifax to transmit, herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of telegram No. 849 of August 6th from His Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo, regarding the possible need for the evacuation of British subjects from Egypt.

2. Lord Halifax proposes to approve the suggestions which Sir Miles Lampson makes. With regard to the ruling for which His Excellency asks in paragraph 5 of his telegram, it is the view of this department that everything possible should be done to evacuate British subjects who wish to leave when compelling circumstances arise. Lord Halifax feels that British subjects should not be abandoned against their will to face the risks of the oncoming tide of battle, and the subsequent danger of British bombing and blockade. Little or no financial aid could be given to British subjects in any part of Egypt in enemy occupation and such aid as might be given through neutral channels would of course weaken the position of sterling. The possibility of evacuating British subjects would, however, depend on its being possible to provide suitable transport destinations. The question of transport could probably be settled without much difficulty, but, in view of large numbers involved, it would be less easy to find a territory to which the persons evacuated could be sent. It will be seen that there are in Egypt some 19,000 of colonial extraction, and, in these circumstances ask for Lord Lloyd's observations on the reply to Sir Miles Lampson.

ENCLOSURE IN AIR MAIL LETTER

No. 35 *W/E* 7 SEP 1940

FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL DEPT.

INDIA OFFICE

SECRET
+400
040

3. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Admiralty, Treasury, Dominions Office and India Office.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) A. B. HUTCHESON

XX



SECRET

(3)

P.Z.
4544
1940

EGYPT

(97)

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION.

Decypher.

Sir H. Lampson (Cairo).

6th August, 1940.

D. 6.56 p.m.

6th August, 1940.

R. 8.05 p.m.

6th August, 1940.

No. 869.

kkkkkkkkkk

4441. Your telegram No. 690 to Angora.

1. Before the receipt of this telegram I had for some time been considering in consultation with Service Commanders, the question of evacuating British women and children from Egypt in the event of grave emergency which might arise.

- (1) From threat of enemy occupation.
- (2) From anti-foreign rioting.

2. Apart from military families, some of whom have already been evacuated by General Headquarters, Middle East, to Palestine, while others may be sent as shipping becomes available to, e.g., South Africa, numbers of women and children involved are estimated at between 6,000 and 7,000 Anglo-Saxons and about 19,000 other various categories (Maltese, Cypriots, etc.).

3. General question of evacuation was recently considered by two prominent members of the British community whom I appointed for the purpose. They concluded that the Red Sea route to India, South Africa or elsewhere was the only practicable route and that plans for evacuation should be based on Suez, and they recommended that arrangements should be made for the gradual evacuation forthwith.

4. Middle East Commander agreed with me that any attempt at mass evacuation, even of Anglo-Saxon women and children, would not only run counter to the policy indicated in Your Lordship's circular telegram No. 111, but would also have a very bad effect politically. Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, is however anxious to avoid a rush in the event of emergency and we agreed that the problem had best be tackled on the following lines:-

- (1) that those who have no particular ties with Egypt and are willing to leave now should be encouraged to do so, provided shipping is available.

(2)

ENCLOSURE IN AIR MAIL LETTER
No. 35 W/E 7 SEP 1940
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL DEPT.
INDIA OFFICE

2.

(2) That detailed plan should be prepared for evacuation of the remainder, if and when it becomes clear an emergency is imminent.

5. I propose (1) to arrange for Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, to notify me of any shipping facilities which become available and to instruct His Majesty's Consul to endeavour discreetly to ascertain which British subjects are likely to go now under their own initiative (2) to appoint committee to draw up detailed plan for emergency evacuation and to consider questions of final transport, destinations and eventual maintenance connected therewith. But before proceeding further, I should welcome a definite ruling on the fundamental point whether or not His Majesty's Government contemplate evacuation of normal residents in Egypt in the event of emergency. Such persons would comprise all women and children referred to in second paragraph as well as some of the others and their inclusion in an evacuation scheme would materially affect its scope and perhaps its nature.

6. If above procedure is approved, I propose to continue along lines indicated and to inform His Majesty's Ambassador at Angora (to whom I am sending copy of this telegram) for Mr. Mackereth.